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**A Quality Communications magazine**

# NEWS AMERICA

## DC unleashes an Underworld

THIS year's big DC Universe crossover begins in September with **Underworld Unleashed** 1 by Mark (**Flash**) Waid, Howard (**The Ray**) Porter and Dan (**Uncanny X-Men**) Green. The crossover is scheduled to tie into nearly all the publisher's superhero titles throughout the autumn months.

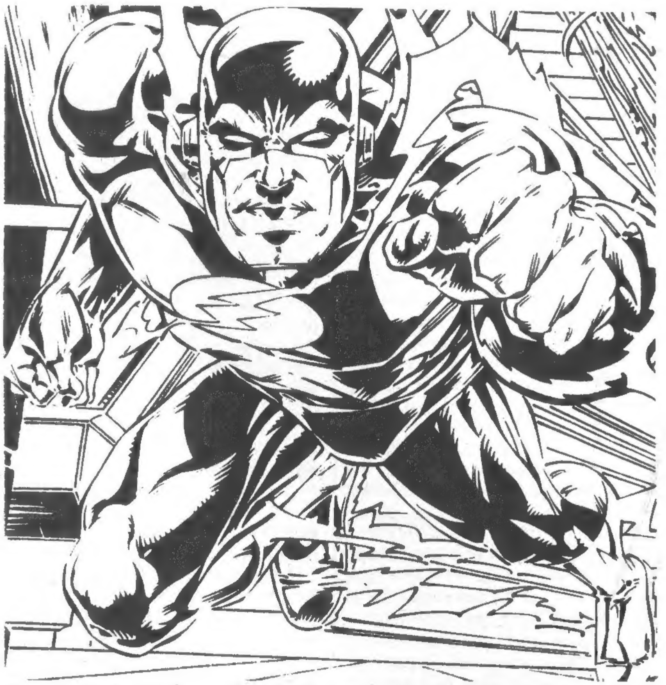
**Underworld Unleashed** is a pivotal three-issue 48-page series. The first issue ships on September 5, with a cover price of $2.95. The concluding issues will be shipped at the end of October.

**Underworld Unleashed** 1 introduces new villain Neron, whose evil far outstrips that of the fiercest DC villains — to the point where even Darkseid has to make a deal with him to prevent the destruction of Apokolips.

To some characters in the DC Universe he will be a catastrophe-inducing adversary; to others, the ultimate anti-hero.

By forcing superheroes into circumstances in which they can only avert disaster by "making deals with the devil", Neron achieves more success than he ever anticipated, but those who do negotiate with Neron find they are forever bound by the terms of his sinister contracts.

Under Neron's influence, DC's villains find their powers enhanced to the degree that their greatest adversaries hold no fear for them.



*Flash leads the DC heroes into battle against Neron, a new DC mega-villain with near omnipotent power, launching in the $2.95 Underworld Unleashed.*

Tied in with the three-issue series are a number of one-shot specials: **Underworld Unleashed: Apokolips — Dark Uprising** by Paul Kupperberg and Stefano (**X-O Manowar**) Raffaele and Steve (**Batman**) Mitchell; **Batman — Devil's Asylum** by Alan Grant, Brian Stelfreeze and Rick Burchett; **Abyss — Hell's Sentinal** by Scott Peterson, Phil Jiminez, J.H Williams and John Stokes (which introduces a new, powerful threat to the DC Universe); and **Underworld Unleashed: Patterns of Fear** by Roger Stern, Anthony Williams and Andy Lanning. DC will be soliciting for the last three titles in October.

The monthly titles linked to the crossover storyline and carrying **Underworld Unleashed** logos are:

- Shipping on September 5: **Aquaman** 14, **Azrael** 10, **Damage** 18, **Green Arrow** 102, **Guy Gardner: Warrior** 36 and the twelfth and final issue of **Manhunter**.
- Shipping on September 12: **Extreme Justice** 10, **Flash** 107, **Primal Force** 13 and **The Spectre** 35.
- Shipping on September 19: **Green Lantern** 68, **Hawkman** 26, **Justice League America** 105, **R.E.B.E.L.S '95** and **Starman** 13.
- Shipping on September 26: **Detective Comics** 691, **Fate** 13, **Impulse** 8, **The Ray** 18, **Steel** 21.
- During October the following titles will all tie in with the **Underworld Unleashed** story: **Catwoman** 27, **Damage** 19, **Green Arrow** 103, **Guy Gardner** 37, **Lobo** 22, **Robin** 23, **Batman** 525, **Extreme Justice** 11, **Fate** 14, **Legion of Super-Heroes** 75, **Primal Force** 14, **Superboy** 22, **The Spectre** 36, **Green Lantern** 69, **Hawkman** 27, **Justice League America** 106, **Adventures of Superman** 530, **Detective Comics** 692 and **Justice League Task Force** 30.

Brian Augustyne, the editor of **Underworld Unleashed**, said there will be radical changes to DC's status quo as a direct result of the crossover.

**COVER:** Continuing the trend for big budget feature films starring comic characters, Pamela Anderson takes on the tattoos and bracelets of Barb Wire *(see page 5)*

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## New readers: begin here

***Comics International** is a monthly industry newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items, together with reviews and commentary on current titles.*

*Certain products mentioned are not available through regular news agent outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialists in Britain is given in our Retail Index and Mail Order Index sections.*

***Shipping dates** mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to on-sale dates or titles for news agent copies.*

*The Marvel and DC titles on news trade distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these advance copies are sold at a higher price than the UK cover price.*

***American dollar prices** are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.*

*Most reputable mail order dealers bear a CoBRA seal on their advertisements. For full details concerning advertisers displaying this Mail Order Protection seal, see page 106.*

## IN BRIEF

### Killing Frank

MARVEL's new **Punisher** comic features the execution of Frank Castle. The former **Suicide Squad** writer, John Ostrander, is joined by artists Tom (**Spider-Man**) Lyle and Chris (**Silver Surfer**) Ivy on the ongoing series, the first issue of which will go on sale in September.

The title's editor, Chris Cooper, said Castle's "death" represents the culmination of the **Double Edge** storyline, which will help relaunch the Marvel Edge imprint and cross over into all the Marvel Edge titles. Referring to the crossover, Cooper said: "You really don't have to read all the titles to keep up with the story." The first issue will retail for $2.95, reducing thereafter to $1.95.

### Williams at Comico

AWARD-winning Image inker Scott Williams and fellow Wildstorm penciller Scott (**Stormwatch**) Clark are the artists for the new Comico monthly, **Strike Force America**.

The series is written by Australian creator David DeVries and centres on a group of paranormal Strike Force members commandeered for America's last-stand fighting unit.

Their first assignment is to prevent a super-powered psycho destroying Rhode Island.

This is Scott Williams' first work outside Image's Wildstorm titles since his reportedly acrimonious split with Marvel, in 1992.

The first issue will ship with three different covers and retail for $2.50. It features bound-in trading cards to accompany a set scheduled for later this year.

### Cutbacks 2099

**PUNISHER 2099** is the latest casualty in Marvel's cutbacks *(see News, **Comics International** 55)*. The story of the futuristic lone vigilante draws to a close with issue 34, by Chuck Dixon, Rod Whigham and Enrique Villagran, in which the final fate of Jake Gallow is revealed.

### Savage jungle

DOC Savage returns to comics with a new four-issue series from Dark Horse Comics.

**Doc Savage: Curse of the Fire God** is written by former Bongo Comics' Steve Vance and illustrated by long-serving comics professional Pat Broderick.

The action starts in the South American rainforest with Doc defending his injured teammates from two giant, fiery snakes, and works backwards to chronicle Savage's involvement in this unlikely scenario.

The first issue retails for $2.95 and ships on September 26th.

### Web of madness

WITH the mantle of Spider-Man being passed around like a hot potato and Peter Parker discovering that he is a clone of himself, the new four-issue series **Spider-Man: The Final Adventure** threatens to make matters even more confusing for one of the wallcrawlers.

The series, by former **New Warriors** collaborators Fabian Nicieza and Darick Robertson, tells the story of how Peter comes to terms with the fact that he has been living a lie for the last five years, culminating in issue 4, in which Mary Jane Parker gives birth to the "Spider-baby".

In the Marvel Select format, the first issue ships on October 10 and retails for $2.95.

### New 3x3 Eyes debuts

THE DARK Horse Manga imprint is to release the follow-up to Yuzo Takada's successful Innovation Comics series, **3 x 3 Eyes**.

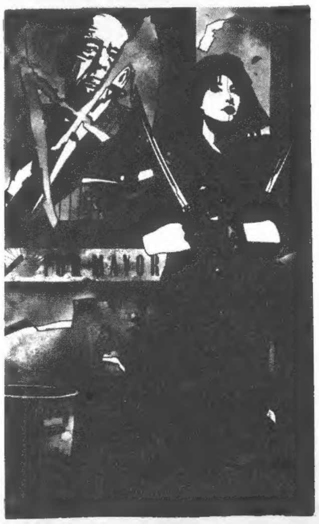
Picking up a theme from the first series, it tells the story of Yakumo and his meeting with a girl named Pai. Pai was not human, but an immortal being with mysterious powers — yet all she longs for is the chance to be like others. Together Yakumo and Pai travelled to Hong Kong in search of the means to transform Pai into a human being.

The series is translated by Studio Proteus's Toren Smith and the first $2.95 issue ships on October 31.

### Typhoid's back

MARVEL Edge's first mature readers title ships in September.

**Typhoid** features former Daredevil support character Typhoid Mary in a four-issue series written by the character's creator, Ann Nocenti (**Daredevil 254**).



The series follows Mary's progress as she hunts a serial killer of prostitutes in New York City.

Vertigo painter John Van Fleet supplies artwork for the Marvel Select series, which retails for $3.95.

### League of Justice

TWO of the industry's longest serving professionals have combined to produce a new two-issue *Elseworlds* story for DC.

Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano are the creators behind **League of Justice**, two 48-page issues set in a world of magic and sorcery, with a host of vaguely familiar heroes.

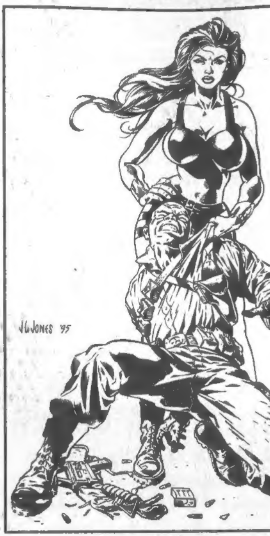
Hannigan writes and draws, while Giordano inks the $5.95 prestige format two-parter. The first issue ships on September 26.

### DC cancellations

TEN DC titles are being cancelled in the latter half of this year, but all current storylines will be concluded. The titles include the ground-breaking former fan-favourite, **New Titans**, which finishes in December with issue 130.

The other titles are: **Damage** (20); **The Outsiders** (24); **Manhunter** (12); **Primal Force** (14); Vertigo's **Animal Man** (89); Milestone's **Kobalt** (16) and **Shadow Cabinet** (17); and the licensed **Judge Dredd** and **Judge Dredd Legends of the Law**, at issue 13.

## Broadway Comics lifts off



ADAMANT he won't make the same mistakes again, Jim Shooter is heading up the new Broadway Comics, a division of New York's largest TV and movie production company, Broadway Video.

The indefatigable Shooter, ex-creative head of Marvel, Valiant and the recently cancelled Defiant, said of the new set-up, "Comics have been through some hard times during the last couple of years, the inevitable result of greed-publishing and speculator frenzy. Now most publishers are talking about quality as if it were a brand new idea they just thought of. Quality — meaning good stories, good art, and, in a word, entertainment — is their new gimmick, replacing various stupid marketing tricks.

"They're going to find that quality is not something that you can have glued on at the printer. It takes skill, talent and lifelong dedication, and it takes a commitment — a real one, not lip-service — on the part of the company. That's rare.

"In all the years I've been in comics, I've never heard those three little words — *do it right* — from business backers except here at Broadway. They threw in *take your time*, too.

"This industry badly needs to be revolutionised, and we're just the guys to do it — Broadway Comics and you."

Shooter's new line-up consists of
**Powers That Be** (launching Nov 7)
**Shadow State** (launching Dec 12)
**Fatale** (pictured above, Jan 23)
**Electropolis** (launching Feb 27)

All four titles will be monthly and — unlike at Defiant — all will be created and written by Shooter. A full rundown will appear next issue.

## Re-introducing the all-old X-Men

ANOTHER new X-Men title is to hit the stands in September. **Professor Xavier and the X-Men** (originally solicited as **X-Men Dollar Book**) is the latest addition to the Marvel 99c line of comics and features untold tales of the X-Men's past.

The series is written by former Majestic Publishing mainstay Fred Schiller and illustrated by **X-Factor's** Jan Duursema and Rick (**The Question**) Magyar.

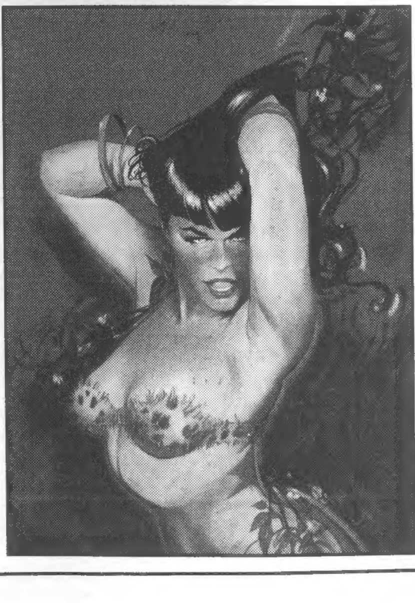
The first issue is set a few days before the new team of mutants' first meeting with Magneto (which took place in 1963's **Uncanny X-Men #1**) and focuses on the arrival of Jean Grey at Professor Xavier's mansion and her first meeting with Scott (Cyclops) Summers. The second issue features a more in-depth look at the team's first meeting with the Vanisher (from **Uncanny X-Men #2**).

Marvel's other 99c launch in September is **Over The Edge and Under a Buck**, which will feature self-contained adventures of the characters who make up the Marvel Edge imprint.

The first issue, shipping on September 26, is by Ralph Macchio and Robert (**Spider-Man**) Brown and features a Daredevil story, with the blind vigilante confronting a new and revamped Mister Fear.

## The unexpurgated Bettie Page

IN 1951, a young model set the pin-up world alight when she appeared in **Flirt Magazine**. For the next decade Bettie (Betty) Page was one of America's favourite cult stars.

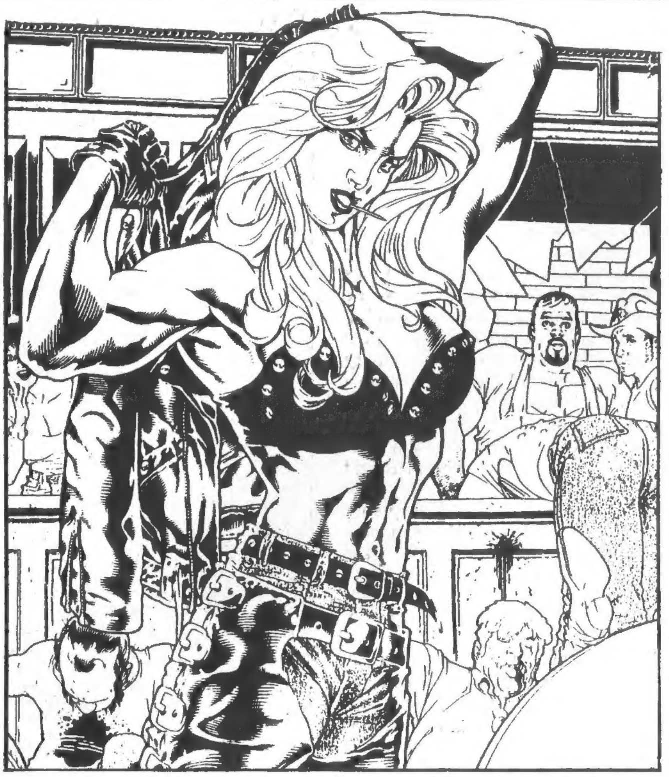


Now Dark Horse is following Greg Theakston's periodical **The Betty Pages** by releasing the coffee-table book **Bettie Page: Queen of Hearts**.

Written by Jim Silke, the book explores Page's influences on popular culture and why she is a cult figure in the 1990s.

Included in the 96 page paperback are renditions of Bettie by some of comics' best known "Good Girl" artists, such as Frank Frazetta, Dave Stevens, Mark Schulz and Mitchell Hooks. Priced $19.95, the November 7 shipping book also features a selection of never-before-published photographs by Bunny Yeager, the woman long been associated with Page.

Author Silke's 3-issue **Rascals in Paradise** "good girl" title ships on November 7 as a 104 page $16.95 trade paperback.



# From Baywatch to Barb Wire

*BAYWATCH's* Pamela Anderson stars in the Polygram-Propaganda-Dark Horse co-production of **Barb Wire**, the latest Dark Horse comic character to be made into a feature film. With filming in Los Angeles having begun on May 23rd, an early 1996 release date is anticipated.

Anderson's first appearance as the gun-toting, motorcycle riding female bounty hunter was at this year's Cannes Film Festival in May. She said at the press conference, "I blow away bodies without remorse."

Dark Horse executives also attended the festival to launch the first of Dark Horse Entertainment's seventeen-film deal with Polygram Films International. Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson — one of the film's producers — has been to most conventions this year to answer questions about his various projects.

When asked if Pamela Anderson was his first choice for the role, Richardson said, "It was Pamela Anderson from day one. When we first started, we took one look at Pam and knew that she *was* Barb Wire. She is a perfect casting match, right up there along with Jim Carrey (*The Mask*) and Jean Claude Van Damme (*Timecop*)" [— both Dark Horse comics to film successes.]

When asked about what input Dark Horse has in the production of the film, Richardson said, "We had 100% input. *Barb Wire* is a Dark Horse movie, we developed the script, *we* are producing this film."

Richardson also named the supporting actors and actresses for the film, "The cast features some names you might have seen before: Temuera Morrison, Victoria Rowell, Xander Berkeley, Jack Noseworthy and *Life Force*'s Steve Railsback."

Although Dark Horse's *The Mask* is in production, both as a film sequel and an animated TV series, *Barb Wire* is the first of the new line of Dark Horse Heroes to be adapted for the big screen, with others in development.

"*Ghost* has gone to the script stage with Larry Gordon at Universal. *Machine* and *Pit Bulls* are currently in development."

# Marvel makes further staff cuts

CONSOLIDATING its position, Marvel has been making sweeping changes to both its US and UK personnel. *[See News Europe for UK changes at Marvel.]*

The entire senior management has changed. Tom Defalco stepped down as editor-in-chief last December and a fiefdom of group editors replaced him. This was followed by his immediate superior, Michael Z. Hobson, moving over to Marvel UK (from which he has since moved to oversee European development). COO Terry Stewart then moved over to the senior board. Editorial staff cuts have been announced in recent issues, with the latest being from the Malibu division.

Co-founder of Malibu in its original independent role, Dave Olbrich openly stated at the San Diego Comic Con that he had been "kicked out", but intends to remain in the industry as a freelance agent and packager.

It has now been announced that Tom Mason (VP-Marketing) and Chris Ulm (VP-Editorial) are leaving the company on September 8th to launch an entertainment-related venture from their new offices overlooking Malibu beach.

Scott Rosenberg, President of Malibu Comics, said of the latest moves, "While I hate to see them leave, I'm excited about their new prospects and we look forward to developing future projects together."

In Marvel's marketing department, Sven Larson was made redundant last month, following colleague Garry Guzzo, who is now handling publicity for Broadway Comics.

# After Infinity: the new Ultraverse

AFTER the conclusion of *Infinity Month* comes the new Ultraverse, with seven titles all beginning with issue 1. The new range of Ultraverse titles are $1.50 each, instead of the old Malibu price of $2.50.

● **The All-New eXiles** #1 consists of Juggernaut, Sienna Blaze, Reaper (who first appeared in the almost legendary **New Mutants** #87), Shuriken (formerly a creator-owned project under Malibu's old Eternity imprint), Amber Hunt (the girl who caused the Ultraverse **Breakthru'** crossover), The Strike (formerly Warstrike) and a seventh mystery Marvel mutant. They begin the search for the reasons they have been brought together and discover what it's like to be strangers in a world more suspicious — even than the Marvel Universe — of those who are different.

It is written by Terry (**Web of Spider-Man**) Kavanagh and drawn by **Excalibur**'s Ken Lashley.

● **Mantra** #1 features the all-new, all-female Mantra. The new owner of the mantle, a dysfunctional teenage girl, comes to terms with her power and the aftermath of *Black September*. We also discover what happens to Eden Blake and Lucasz.

**Mantra** #1 is by the old **Mantra** team of Mike Barr and Jim Amash.

● **The Night Man** #1 by Steve Englehart and MC Wyman continues the adventures of the two Night Men. One trapped in the Marvel Universe, the other laying claim to the title in the new Ultraverse.

● **Prime** #1 continues the battle with the Lizard that started in **Prime Infinity**. Kevin continues to fight in his Spider-Prime guise, unaware that in the Ultraverse someone is masquerading as Prime.

Kaminski and Jones continue to write the series, while John Statema is joined by Kevin West on the art.

● **Rune** #1 also continues from the **Infinity** issue. Adam Warlock meets Rune's greatest enemy, Gemini, while Rune is tied in battle with Annihilus.

Len Kaminski, who took over the writing of **Rune** from the **Infinity** issue, continues. Kyle Hotz, who worked on the **Curse of Rune** mini-series, supplies the artwork.

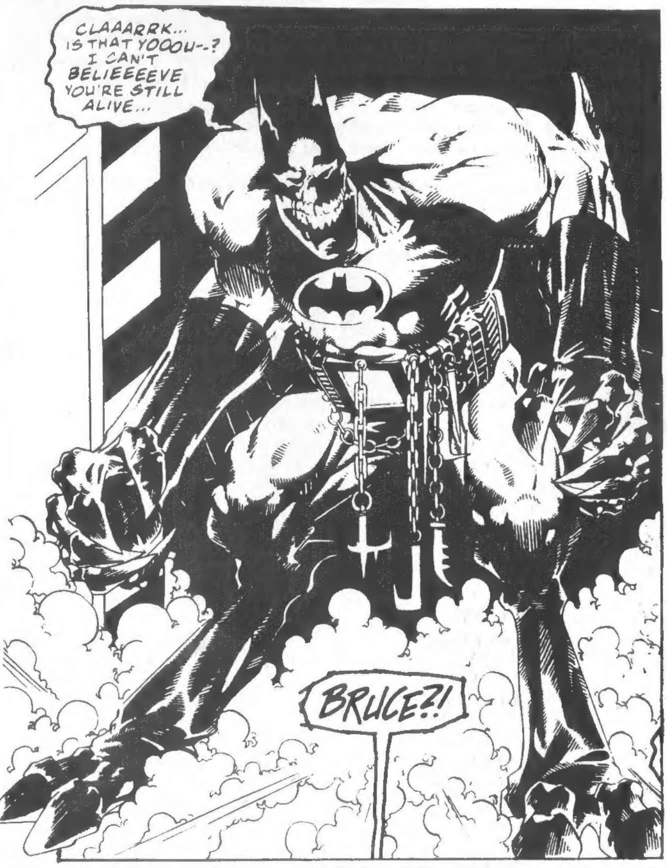
● **Siren** #1 features the new Ultraverse bad girl in her own solo series. In the first issue, Siren continues her quest to kill War Machine and is joined by Captain America's old girlfriend Diamondback.

Hank Kanalz writes the series and Kevin West illustrates it.

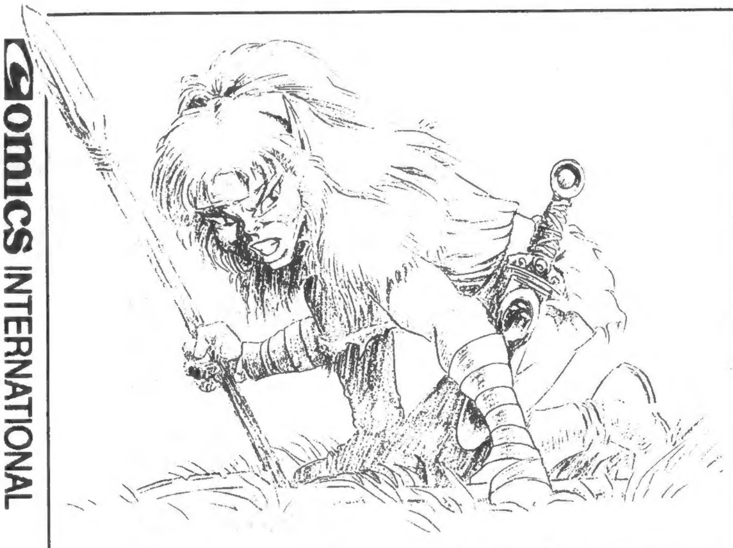
● **Ultraforce** #1, by Warren Ellis and the new art team of Steven Butler and Dennis Jensen, continues from the Ian Edgington scripted **Ultraforce Infinity**.

Ellis promises he will take the new Ultraforce in an unexpected and very different direction.

All the new Ultraverse issue ones come in two variant covers. The alternative covers (one in every five ordered) are paintings from the upcoming Fleer trading card set, but cost no more than the standard editions.


CLAAARRK... IS THAT YOOOU--? I CAN'T BELIEEEEVE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
BRUCE?!

*Above: Frank Gomez's depiction of the Batman-Thing from the new Elseworlds title* ***Superman: At Earth's End****. This one-shot, written by Tom* ***(Star Wars)*** *Veitch, is a sequel to the* ***Kamandi: At Earth's End*** *series from 1994. The story takes the white-maned and bearded 500-year old Kal on a journey to save the legacy of his old friend Bruce Wayne, only to be confronted by Batman's ultimate failsafe, should anyone ever try to get into the ancient Bat-Cave. It ships on September 19 and is cover priced $4.95.*



*Above: A Barry Blair and Delfin Barrel sketch from* ***Two-Spear****, one of two new mini-series from WaRP Graphics. The release of the series coincides with the Elfquest Treasure Hunt competition the company is running between September and December.* ***Two-Spear*** *is a five-issue series telling of Cutter's ancestor, an elf who nearly destroyed the Wolfriders with his visions and obsessions. The second new series,* ***Kahvi****, is drawn by Steve Blevins, and ties into* ***Two-Spears****, although each is set in its own era. The two $2.50 mini-series launch in black and white as part of the original black and white* ***Elfquest****'s September anniversary.*

## Dark Empire trilogy concludes

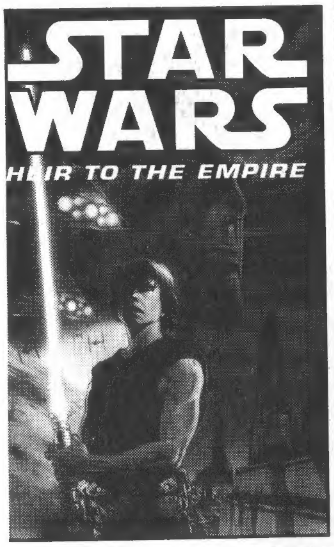
DARK Horse is releasing two new **Star Wars** mini-series, including the conclusion to Tom Veitch's **Dark Empire** trilogy.

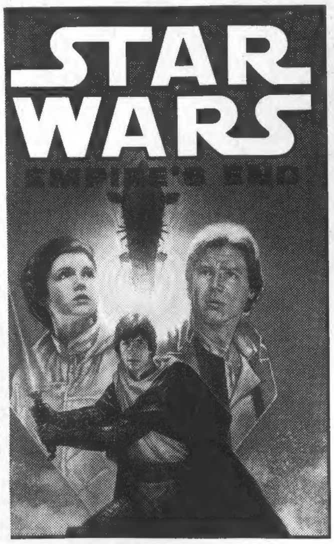
On **Star Wars: Empire's End**, Veitch is joined by Orkneys artist Jim Baikie as Emperor Palantine returns, but this time his target is not Luke Skywalker, but Han Solo and Princess Leia's youngest son, Anakin. The emperor wants the child as a host for his mind, as the inferior clone body his mind transferred into at the end of **Dark Empire II** is beginning to decompose.

The first of the two-issue series ships October 24 and features a Dave Dorman cover and retails for $2.95.

**Star Wars: Heir to the Empire** is based on the novel by Timothy Zahn and has been adapted by Mike (**Nexus**) Baron and French illustrators Olivier Vatine and Fred Blanchard — the creators of the *Aquablue* series for **Metal Hurlant**.

The six-issue mini-series is set five years after *Return of the Jedi* and focuses on the political upheaval of the New Republic and the threat of the Emperor's last surviving warlord, Grand Admiral Thrawn, who has discovered two vital chinks in the New Republic's armour. Issue #1 ships on October 3, priced $2.95.





## Peter David: Last Avengers Story

PETER David is the writer of the long-awaited Marvel Alterniverse series, **The Last Avengers Story**.

The three-issue story is set in the far future where Ultron 59 brutally obliterates the next generation of young heroes and makes a shocking demand of the world.

Hank Pym, Ultron's "father", must come out of retirement, gather all the remaining heroes who can stand, and face him in battle. The series looks at the lives of those heroes that answer the call and also follows the destinies of less fortunate Avengers.

David is joined by painter Ariel Olivetti for the 48 page series which will comprise of two or three issues (there are contradictory references in Marvel's Megalogue catalogue). The series retails for $5.95 and issue one ships on September 26.

## New Spider-Man titles launch

GUARANTEED to drive collectors crazy, Marvel is launching a new three-issue mini-series by Kurt Busiek and newcomer Paul Lee with the famous title **Amazing Fantasy**.

The three issues, **Amazing Fantasy** #16, 17 and 18, bridge the gap between the pivotal **Amazing Fantasy** #15 — the first appearance of Spider-Man — **Amazing Spider-Man** #1 and **Untold Tales of Spider-Man** #1, a series exploring the early life of Spider-Man.

**Amazing Fantasy** will tell in depth of Peter Parker's decision to become Spider-Man and the days between his confrontation with the burglar who killed his Uncle Ben in **Amazing Fantasy** #15 and the hero's first meeting with the Chameleon and the Fantastic Four, from **Amazing Spider-Man** #1.

The series is in the Marvel Select format, and the first issue ships on October 3, retailing at $2.95.

Another icon from Marvel's and Spider-Man's past reappears in October with the first issue of **Spider-Man Team-Up**, a 1995 revamp of the '70s **Marvel Team-Up**.

When **Marvel Team-Up** began, in March 1972, it was to focus on the popular trend of superheroes teaming up, as the title inferred. But while it was called **Marvel Team-Up**, all but eleven issues of its 150 issue run featured partnerships with Spider-Man.

The new **Spider-Man Team-Up** is intended to contain stand alone stories by some of the industry's top talent. The first $2.95 issue features a 48 page story by Mark (**X-Men**) Waid and Ken (**Excalibur**) Lashley.

Coincidentally, it features Spider-Man and the X-Men — the same pairing as was in the final 150th issue of **Marvel Team-Up**.

In this first issue, the Hellfire Club targets J. Jonah Jameson for assassination and Spider-Man enlists the aid of Cyclops, Jean Grey, Beast, Psylocke and Archangel to stop the X-Men's evergreen enemy. The story ties in with X-Men continuity.

## Everything but the Kitchen Sink?

AT this year's San Diego Comic Convention, it was announced that Diamond Comics Distributors has signed exclusive brokerage agreements with Dark Horse and was close to concluding a deal to be sole distributor for Image Comics.

The Dark Horse agreement was concluded on July 21, with publisher Mike Richardson signing a formal agreement between the two companies, beginning in September.

On the same day, Steve Geppi, CEO of Diamond, signed a detailed letter of agreement with the head of Image, Rob Liefeld. The intent of the would-be agreement is that Diamond will become sole distributor for all comics cover featuring the Image "i" from the December shipping titles.

Commenting on the agreement, Mike Richardson said, "We've thoroughly researched and studied each of our options over the past several months. This has been a difficult decision, but because of the recent industry upheaval, we felt compelled — not just for our own sake, but for the sake of retailers and creators we work with as well — to make a distribution choice.

"We held up our decision until we fully understood all of the potential ramifications and felt completely comfortable with our course of action," he concluded.

Image Executive Director Larry Marder said of his company's decision to align themselves with Diamond, "After carefully evaluating all our options, we've come to the conclusion that exclusivity with Diamond is our best choice."

The deal with Diamond allows Image to set its own pricing and sell directly to retailers. Diamond will earn a fee for providing Image with distribution and marketing services.

Diamond has since announced a similar exclusive distribution arrangement for the Acclaim Comics line and Rob Liefeld's independent (of Image) Maximum Press titles.

On July 27, Capital City announced that an agreement had been reached with Kitchen Sink Press to be the comics publisher's sole distributor, beginning with Kitchen Sink titles shipping in December.

In the wake of Diamond signing the big four (outside of Marvel), the move with Kitchen Sink is seen as an attempt to lure the smaller independent publishers to Capital.

Founded in 1969, Kitchen Sink is the oldest of the independent publishers. It has been supported by a merger with Kevin Eastman's Tundra and was then bought out by entertainment investment bankers Ocean Capital in June, 1994.

KSP founder Dennis Kitchen said, "Capital has strongly supported alternative comics for many years. With the changing market dynamics, Capital is clearly best positioned to champion independent publishers and creators."

While retailers and fans appear confused by recent exclusivity deals, a Dark Horse spokesman recently commented on how such deals considerably reduce a publisher's costs, both in catalogue advertising (currently in five different company titles) and in shipping to multiple distributors. The move frees up money for more creative and competitive directions.

### *Mirage fades*

One publisher however will not be involved in the current distributor fracas. Mirage Publishing will cease producing its entire line in December, including its once highly successful **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** comic.

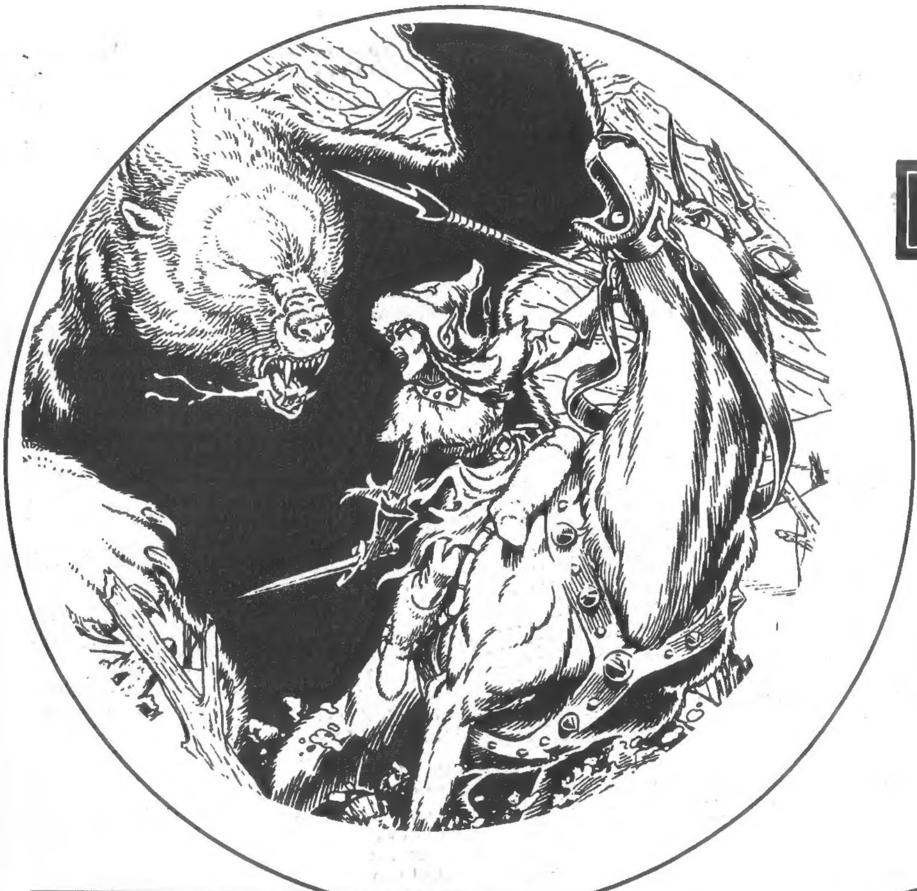
Mirage will continue to exist as licensor of the TMNT properties, and Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird will remain involved in licensing decisions.

Mirage publishing director Tim Toffoli said, "It's a tough business right now. The recent flooding kind of took the wind out of our sales."

Archie will continue to publish **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** as a childrens' newsstand title.

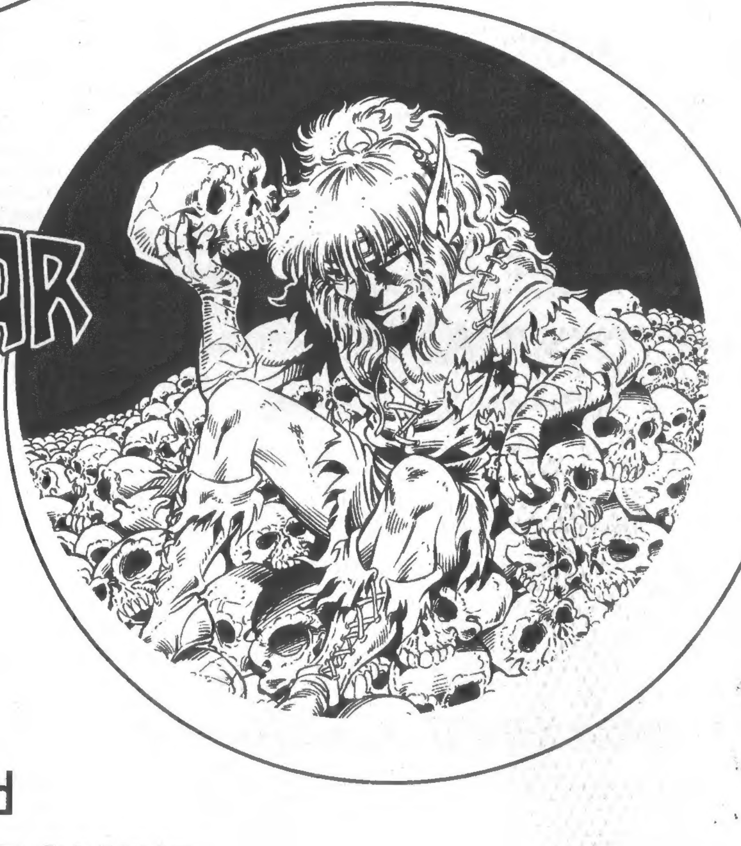
Fans of the mature readers **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** will be pleased to note that Mirage intends that the title should continue under license. Erik Larsen has expressed an interest in continuing the Turtles comic following the successful recent crossovers with his own Savage Dragon character.

# THE DARK SIDE OF THE WORLD OF TWO MOONS!



## KAHVI

## TWO-SPEAR



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## IN BRIEF

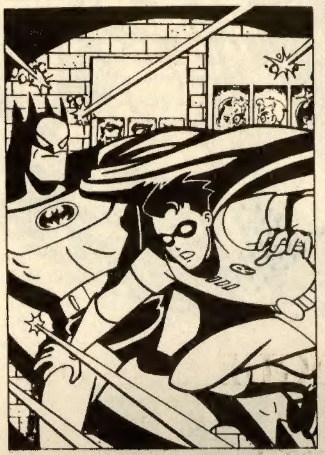
### *Red Sonja returns*

MARVEL is reviving another of Robert E. Howard's barbarian creations in the 48 page $2.95 one-shot, **Red Sonja.**

The red-headed swordswoman who last appeared in her own series in December 1985, is brought back by Glenn (**Avengers**) Herdling and Ken (**Excalibur**) Lashley and features a Brothers Hildebrandt cover.

### *New Batman & Robin*

**BATMAN Adventures**, which was cancelled last month, has been resurrected as **The Batman and Robin Adventures**, to fall in line with the renaming of the Fox animated TV series.



The new series is written by the animated series writer/producer Paul Dini. Artwork is by Ty (**Justice League International**) Templeton and **Batman Adventures** mainstay Rick (**Blackhawk**) Burchett.

The first issue ships on September 26 and retails for $1.75.

### *Two-Gun Fabian*

FABIAN Nicieza, having recently resigned as **X-Men** writer, is reviving the wild west in his latest two-issue Marvel series.

**Two-Gun Kid: Sunset Riders** features Matt Hawke (the Kid) back in his own century after having been transported to modern time during the early run of **West Coast Avengers**. He returns to the 19th century west armed with an Uzi sub machine-gun and the knowledge of when and how his own death will take place.

The series, printed on parchment-like paper, retails at $6.95, and is drawn by leading German artist Christian Gorney (one of Dave McKean's major influences), together with Alex Malev and Mike Hablieb. The first issue ships September 19.

### *Return of the Maestro*

*GHOSTS of the Future* is a new four-issue storyline in **Incredible Hulk**, which again shifts the ever-changing status quo of the series.

Writer Peter David brings back the Maestro from his **Hulk: Future Imperfect** two-issue series, as the Hulk faces the ever-increasing possibility that he will turn into the version of himself who rules a dystopian future society.

The story also ties directly into **Cutting Edge #1**, the first of a new quarterly anthology series featuring Marvel Edge imprint characters. The first $2.95 issue features a Hulk story by former **Maxx** writer Bill Messner-Loebs (who is being replaced by Alan Moore) on his first work for Marvel, and is drawn by Paul (**Outsiders**) Pelletier and Angel Medina.

### *Tank Apocalypse*

ALAN Grant and **Tank Girl Movie Adaptation** artist Andy Pritchett are the creative team behind **Tank Girl: Apocalypse**, a new mini following on directly from **Tank Girl: The Odyssey.**

Tank Girl finds her shack in the Australian Outback the target of all kinds of weirdos, as mad prophets, salesmen and religious fanatics descend upon her home as the millennium approaches.

The first issue retails for $2.25 and ships on September 12.

### *Gruenwald's Starmasters*

AFTER ten years of writing **Captain America**, Mark Gruenwald is back with a new series for Marvel.

**Starmasters** is a space-bound superhero team led by the Silver Surfer and featuring Beta Ray Thor, Quasar and two new cosmic heroes.

Former **Swamp Thing** artist Scott Eaton and **Warlock and the Infinity Watch** inker Bob Almond handle artwork.

**Starmasters** ties in directly with both the new direction **Silver Surfer**, which features George Perez as writer from issue 111, and the new **Captain Marvel** series by Fabian Nicieza and Ed Benes.

**Captain Marvel** features Legacy, the son of Mar-Vell, a hero who tragically died of cancer in Marvel's first graphic novel, **The Death of Captain Marvel** by Jim Starlin.

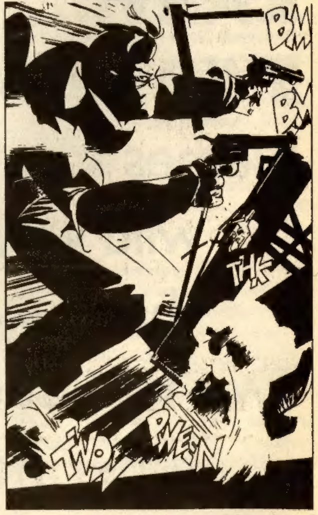
The new series begins with Legacy being pursued by the Shi'Ar. They want him executed, regardless of the fact that his father was a good friend to the Shi'Ar.

The first $2.95 issue ships with a foil stamped cover on October 3.

### *New Vigilante*

JAMES (**Starman**) Robinson continues to breath new life into old DC heroes as he revives the original Vigilante for a new four-issue mini. Ironically, Mort Meskin — who was best known for his work on Vigilante in the 1950s — died last month.

**Vigilante: City Lights, Prairie Justice** tells of the motorcycle-riding cowboy's two-fisted war with the mob kingpin "Bugsy" Siegel.



Drawn by Tony Salmon with painted covers by Mark Chiarello, the $2.50 series launches on October 3.

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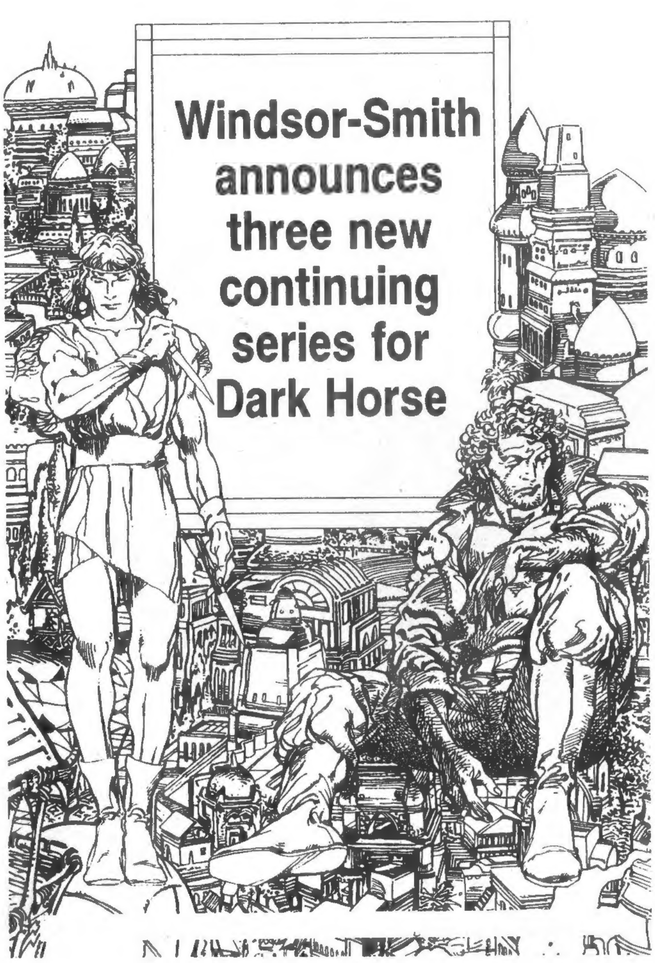
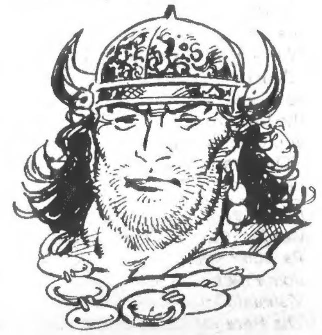
# Windsor-Smith announces three new continuing series for Dark Horse



LONDON-born artist Barry Windsor-Smith has announced that he has no less than three new comics series in the pipeline. These will all be published by Dark Horse Comics, either late this year, or early in 1996.

The titles, **Freebooters, Young Gods** and **Paradox Man** had been advertised over the last two years, in such places as the US trade paper **The Comic Buyer's Guide** and Jim Lee's Wildstorm comics. Until recently, it was believed that Windsor-Smith would self-publish the titles, or ally them with Image.

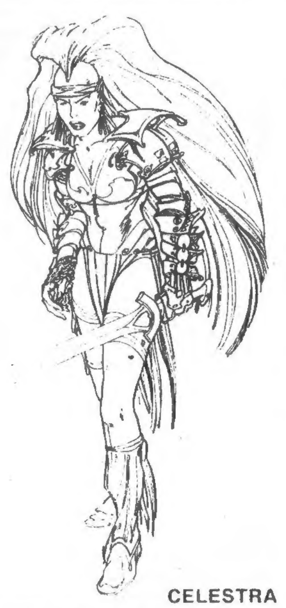
A renaissance man in comics, Smith's career as a high-profile creator has spanned three decades, with him being a fan-favourite in each. From his pioneering work on Marvel's **Conan** in the 1970s, through to his own GorBlimey Press prints and folios and occasional comics work in the 1980s (including **Machine Man** and latterly **Weapon X**) to his Valiant work, Smith has maintained a cutting edge and vibrancy that few have managed over such a period.



AXUS THE GREAT

● **Freebooters** tells the story of Axus the Terrible, a man once known throughout the world as the greatest warrior of all time, but recently retired to a somewhat shameful existence in his home-city of Shahariza. The warrior is dragged out of retirement by a young man who comes in search of him to aid in a threat to his people and his village.

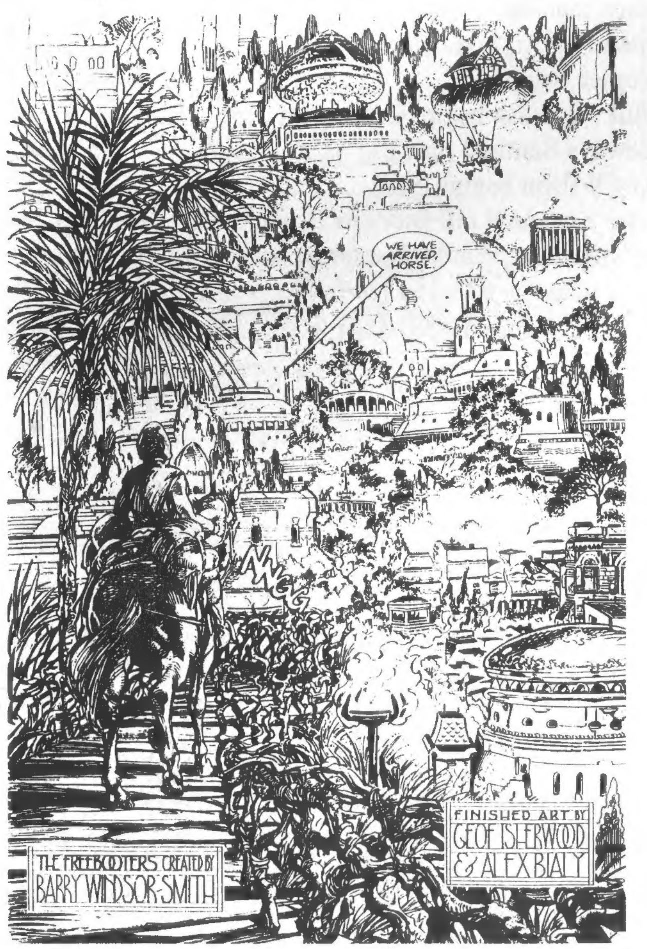
Geof Isherwood and Alex Bialy assist Windsor-Smith on the art.

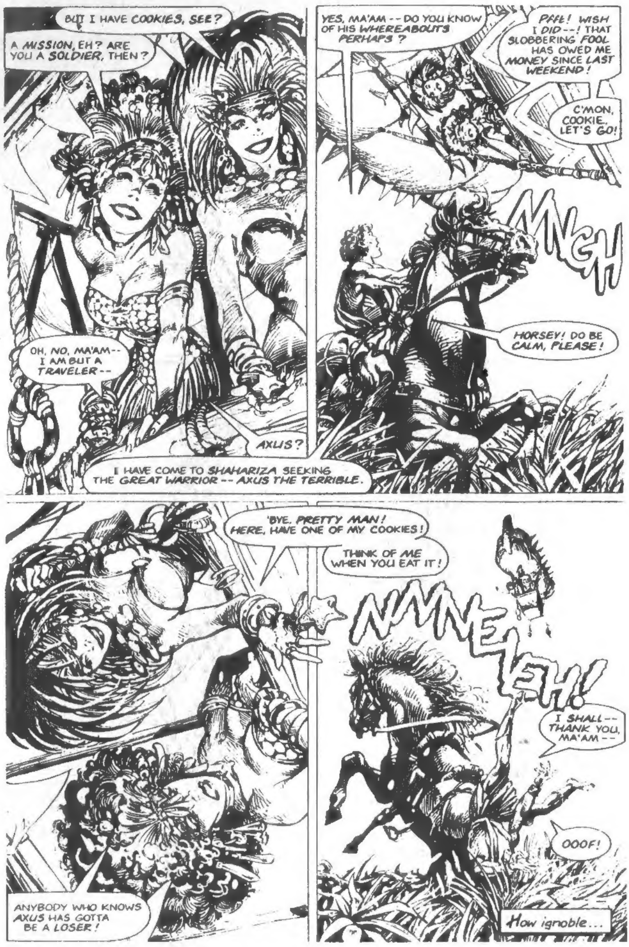


CELESTRA

● **Young Gods** tells a love story of epic proportions. Heros was to marry Adastra and although they were very much in love, the wedding was viewed as an "arranged" marriage to create peace between two vast pantheons of gods.

The night before the wedding Heros and his brother Bron are

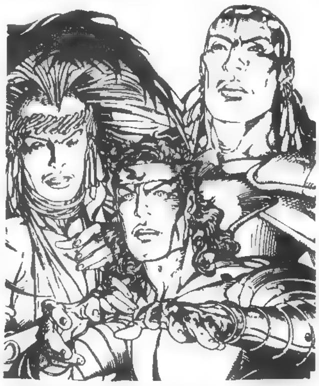

WE HAVE ARRIVED, HORSE.
NNGG
THE FREEBOOTERS CREATED BY BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH
FINISHED ART BY GEOF ISHERWOOD & ALEX BIALY


BUT I HAVE COOKIES, SEE?
A MISSION, EH? ARE YOU A SOLDIER, THEN?
OH, NO, MA'AM-- I AM BUT A TRAVELER--
AXUS?
I HAVE COME TO SHAHARIZA SEEKING THE GREAT WARRIOR -- AXUS THE TERRIBLE.
YES, MA'AM -- DO YOU KNOW OF HIS WHEREABOUTS PERHAPS ?
PFFT! WISH I DID --! THAT SLOBBERING FOOL HAS OWED ME MONEY SINCE LAST WEEKEND!
C'MON, COOKIE, LET'S GO!
MNGH
HORSEY! DO BE CALM, PLEASE!
'BYE, PRETTY MAN! HERE, HAVE ONE OF MY COOKIES!
THINK OF ME WHEN YOU EAT IT!
ANYBODY WHO KNOWS AXUS HAS GOTTA BE A LOSER!
NNNNEEEH!
I SHALL-- THANK YOU, MA'AM --
OOOF!
How ignoble...

taken from their homeworld by their cousin Strangehands, for what he terms as Heros's "one last fling".

The problems start when the fling lasts for several millennia and upon return they discover that the wedding has been cancelled and the two families of gods are at war because of it not happening.

The three relatives and a band of followers have to flee their world and arrive for the very first time on Earth, with a host of the bride's family in pursuit.



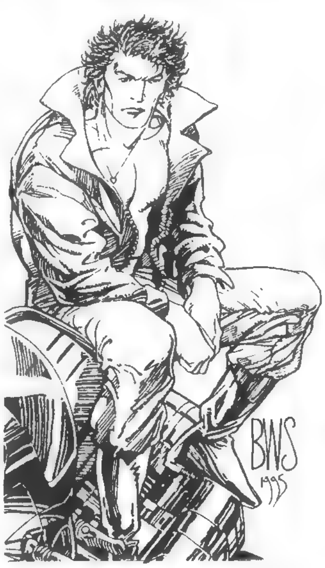
Windsor-Smith again writes and draws the series and is aided by Alex Bialy on inks.

- **The Paradox Man** tells the story of Tristan Caine, a man desperately in love with a beautiful woman who has been lost in time.

Caine searches for her with the aid of the Time Bike, which is actually a child's toy from the 23rd Century.

His first adventure takes him back to the Jurassic Age and a run-in with evolution-minded extra-terrestrials.

Windsor-Smith's former inker at Valiant, John Floyd, is to act as inker and finisher on the series.



To enable Windsor-Smith to produce the three titles, he has established the Kingston New York-based Windsor-Smith Studio, with in-house colourists, letterers and production assitance. Inkers and finishers for the line are Alex Bailey, John Floyd and Geof Isherwood.

On sale date details and formats have yet to be released.

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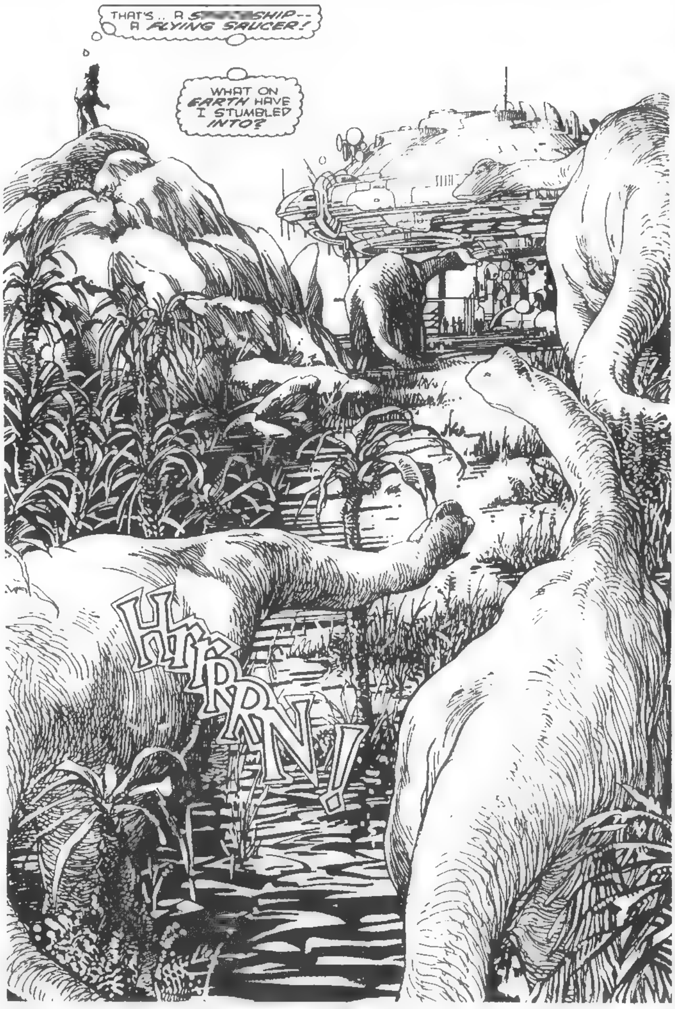
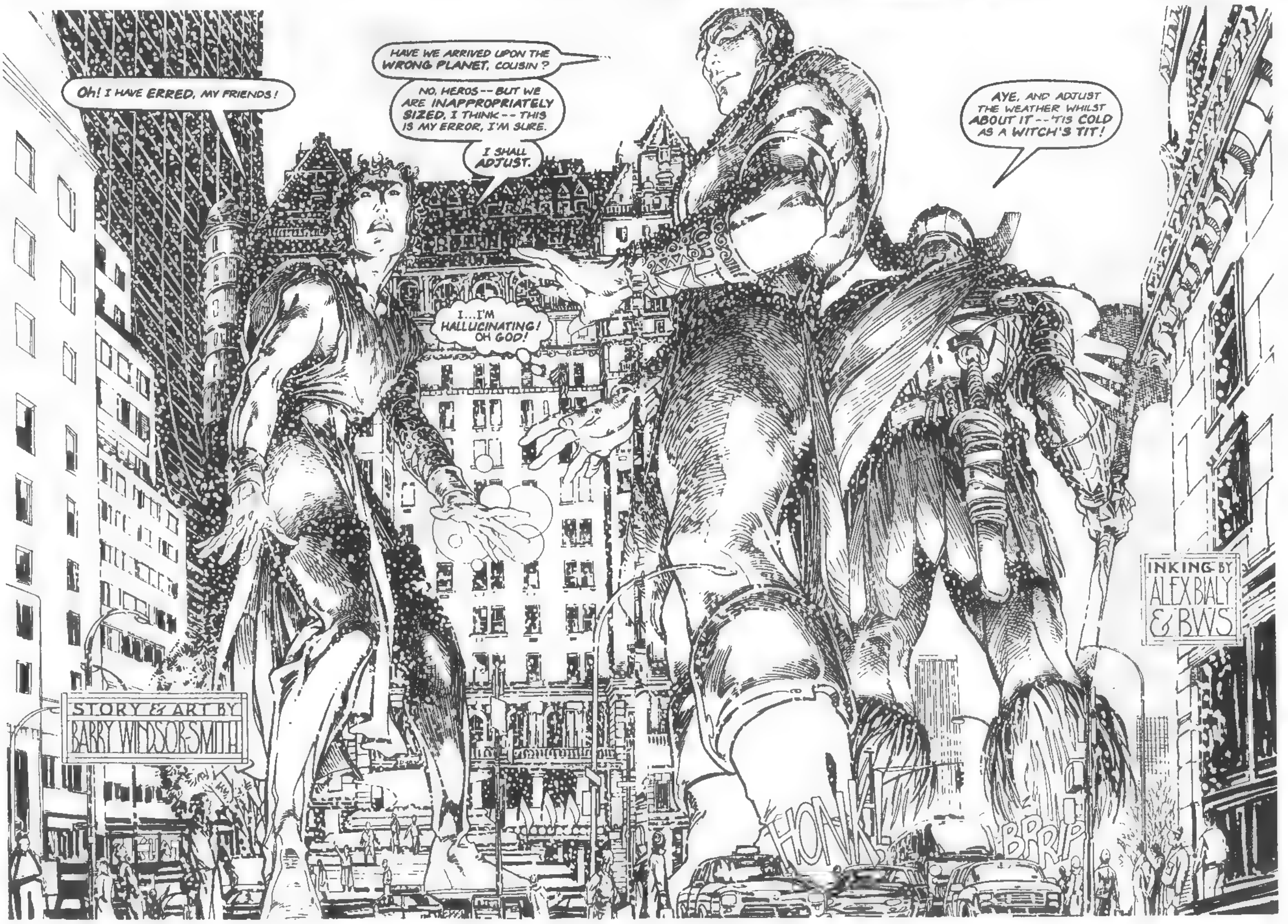
*Facing page visuals. Top: the young warrior from* ***Freebooters*** *and* ***Paradox Man****. Bottom: two pages from* ***Freebooters****.*
*Visuals this page. Right: Tristan Caine,* ***The Paradox Man****, finds himself in a world of UFOs and dinosaurs. Below: a two-page spread of the Young Gods arrival on Earth.*


THAT'S.. A S[redacted]SHIP-- A FLYING SAUCER!
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE I STUMBLED INTO?
HHRRRN!


Oh! I HAVE ERRED, MY FRIENDS!
HAVE WE ARRIVED UPON THE WRONG PLANET, COUSIN?
NO, HEROS -- BUT WE ARE INAPPROPRIATELY SIZED, I THINK -- THIS IS MY ERROR, I'M SURE.
I SHALL ADJUST.
AYE, AND ADJUST THE WEATHER WHILST ABOUT IT -- 'TIS COLD AS A WITCH'S TIT!
I...I'M HALLUCINATING! OH GOD!
STORY & ART BY BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH
INKING BY ALEX BIALY & BWS
HONK!
BRRIP

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(Former DC writer/editor)
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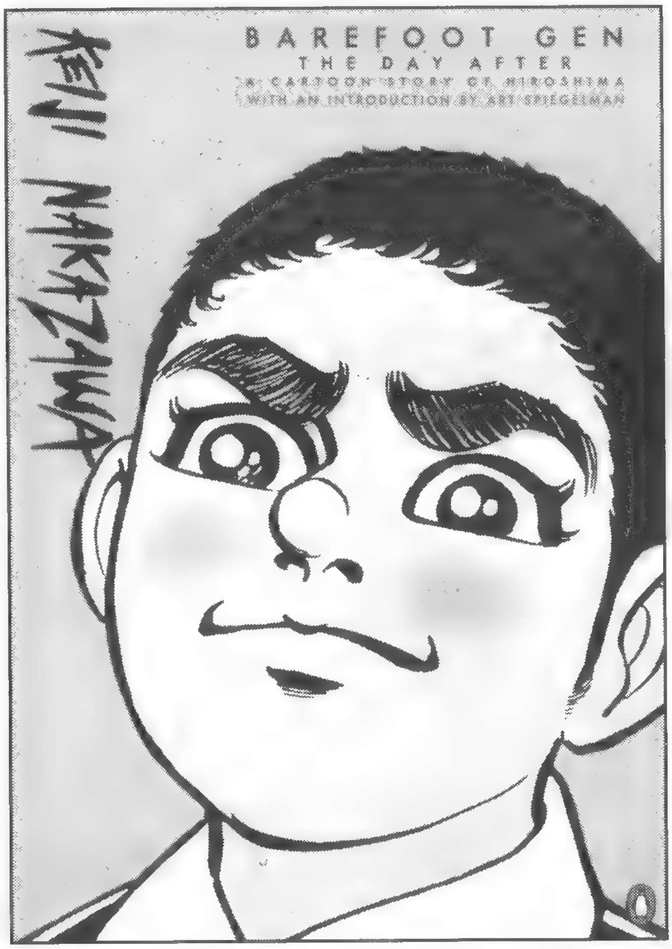
BAREFOOT GEN
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**What is the name of the city destroyed in Barefoot Gen?**
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# MAJOR DIGRESSIONS

## Casper on film: one of the best

*Peter David, writer of comics, paperbacks, film scripts and stuff, contributes a weekly column, "But I Digress" to US trade paper* ***The Comic Buyer's Guide****. In addition to appearing monthly in* ***Comics International****, he also writes* ***The Incredible Hulk*** *and* ***Spider-Man 2099*** *for Marvel Comics,* ***Aquaman*** *for DC and* ***Soulsearchers & Co*** *for Claypool Comics.*

IT MUST be getting fairly frustrating for Marvel. With its sole big-screen release being the much-maligned *Howard the Duck*, it seems that everyone else is able to turn their characters (Superman, Batman, TimeCop, The Rocketeer, The Mask, The Crow, Swamp Thing, Tank Girl) into big-screen stories with far greater ease and frequency. The results, both critical and financial, have been mixed — but that's going to happen with any genre.

Now another company can be added to the roster of those who have beaten Marvel to the punch, when it comes to producing a successful screen translation of one of its characters: Harvey Comics, with the advent of *Casper*.

And I'll tell you: The film is, for my money, one of *the* best comic-book adaptations, bar none.

Why? Because, ironically, the titular character has no blood, no musculature, no bones — indeed, he's the incarnation of the one thing which the movie genuinely has: soul.

And a heart. *Casper* is not a pint-sized version of *Beetlejuice*, *Ghostbusters*, or any other broadly-played ghost farces, despite its comic-book origins and the presence of The Ghostly Trio. Rather, writers Sherri Stoner and Deanna Oliver (whose previous work includes marvellous stints on *Tiny Toon Adventures* and *Animaniacs*, although Oliver did create Chicken-Boo, for which she will not soon be forgiven) have opted to go for the genuine *Ghost* route, subbing *The Addams Family*'s Christina Ricci for Demi Moore and Casper (effectively voiced by Malachi Pearson) for Patrick Swayze. (And, for my money, Casper's a better dancer.)

As a result, *Casper* is sometimes light on humour, soft on villainy (Cathy Moriarty and Eric Idle, hard-working but wasted in roles that one solid rewrite could have eliminated altogether), but long on — longing.

Whereas Casper in the cartoons was a whiny shlepper, and Casper in the comics was good for a few pages of gags but paled (sorry) beside the far more interesting Spooky, Wendy the Good Little Witch, *et al.*, the live-action Casper is wistful, funny, eager to please and wears his emotions on the surface because he hasn't got anyplace else to hide them.

When Casper brushes his "lips" against would-be girlfriend Kat's (Ricci) face as she is about to fall asleep at night, she sleepily asks him to close the window because she feels a chill. His sadness at his limited and negative physical interaction is palpable.

Director Brad Silberling gets excellent performances out of his actors — a considerable achievement, when you consider that Ricci and Bill Pullman (as her Psychiatrist dad, Dr. James [nudge, nudge, wink, wink, get this] Harvey) spent many scenes acting to empty air. And James Horner's score is (sorry again) haunting.

There are some mildly annoying plot holes (the electricity in the haunted house not being turned on until the Harveys arrive, although earlier Casper was watching television; the concept of ghosts being ghosts because they have "unfinished business" being unevenly applied: that sort of thing). But compared to the great gaping holes in, say, the *Batman* movies, it's nothing I couldn't live with.

And the story had the nerve to address what has always been the underlying thing-no-one-discusses: Casper is a dead child. Gotta be. Last time I checked, ghosts come from dead people, and Casper by his design and attitude is clearly a child — a deceased child.

The only time I saw the concept dealt with before was an issue of Marvel's now defunct *Crazy* magazine. The movie isn't as morbid as that issue's "Casper The Dead Baby", thank God, and there were scenes in *Casper* that genuinely got me misty-eyed — not just me, in fact; my family, as well.

*Casper* is that comic-book rarity, a family film. So much so, in fact, that I decided to have some family members step in and give their views on *Casper*.

First my wife, Myra, who gives us:

### *Top 10 groups of people who see Casper*

10) **Fans of the old Casper cartoon.** I haven't seen it since I was a kid, but there didn't seem to be a major conflict to me.

9) **People who remember the old Casper theme song but don't want to have it ruined for them.** Yes, the song does get it in an updated version, but not over and over, and it is rock 'n' roll, not rap. The other music in the movie is more like movie music than cartoon music, which is nice, because this is a live-action movie.

8) **People who like to look for "in-jokes."** There are at least a dozen of these, ranging from the name of Christina Ricci's character to... (I was going to mention a few others, but I don't want to give too much away. Noticing little jokes is part of the fun of the movie.)

7) **People who like cameos.** Several actors recognisable to either adults or children make brief (although not gratuitous) appearances. It must be fun for them to be able to take their kids to see the movie and surprise them.

6) **Pre-schoolers.** Pre-schoolers, such as my daughter Ariel, will like this movie because it is scary — but not too scary. They will also find the story easy enough to follow. Finally they will love all the merchandising. Our local Pizza Hut sold out of all its tie-in merchandise almost before the movie opened.

5) **School-age children** and 4) **Early teens.** This is probably the market that the moviemakers most had in mind. There are enough of the "Stinkie" and

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"Fatso" jokes to get boys' attention without grossing girls out completely. The title character and the point-of-view character are both school-age kids who act their age.

The story certainly held the interest of my daughter Jenny, 10, who was more than willing to see it a second time. Shana, 14, is a big Christina Ricci fan and wanted to see the movie on that basis alone. And again, there is the merchandising, not to mention spin-off potential.

3) **Special effects fans.** I really hate to think of Casper as a special effect, because in this movie he was so — so damn — friendly! I really came to think of him as the 12-year-old boy the movie so touchingly explained him to be. I think that is a credit both to the skills of the special effects people and to the young man who did the voice work.

2) **Die-hard fans of the classic work of children's literature *The Little Princess*.** If you are a big fan of the wonderful book by Frances Hodgson Burnett and you are going to be upset by the changes made to make the story more acceptable to modern audiences (cosmetic changes to the time, location, etc.), then you should not go to see that movie and go see *Casper*. (However, I thought the changes improved the story for children of 1990s America and I thought it was wonderful, including a brief appearance by Rahi Azizi — of soon-to-be *Space Cases* fame. But I digress.)

And finally 1) **Sentimental, romantic suckers such as myself.** People who fall into this category should definitely see *Casper*, not only for a good laugh but for a good cry, as well. I had both and hope you do, too.

Next we have the opinion of my eldest daughter...

## *Shana David:*

Every once in a while, a movie will come out that sounds like such a waste of film that I don't want to bother to see it. This, I thought, would be the case with the new movie *Casper*, based on the cartoon about a friendly ghost. I figured it would be scene after scene of slapstick comedy that supposedly had a main theme and a plot.

Despite these apprehensions, I went to the sneak preview accompanied by my father, two sisters, and the four glow-in-the-dark Casper puppets from Pizza Hut that we had purchased earlier in the day. I expected to be underwhelmed. I was surprised to see a touching film that *did* have a plot. And an excellent one, at that.

The movie centred on a girl (Christina Ricci) and her ghost psychologist father (Bill Pullman) who are asked to move into an old haunted house to help rid it of ghosts. Ricci's character is scared at first when she meets Casper and has to spend a good portion of the movie getting to know him (this part sort of drags). The rest of the movie is about their adventures in trying to save the house and so forth. It sounds like the sort of thing that would be predictable and boring, but it wasn't. The combination of excellent acting, writing and direction made it all unique and interesting.

One thing that I liked in particular was that the movie wasn't afraid to face truths — like that Casper is, in fact, a dead child: depressing but true. And explaining what actually happened to Casper, along with his feelings about other people, was an excellent idea.

Somehow, in my sick, twisted mind, I managed to relate *Casper* to The Who's *Tommy* (which I recently saw performed on Broadway). There are the obvious similarities, but I saw more. As follows:

Both Tommy and Casper live in a world where they are ignored and almost feared by the people around them. Tommy is ignored and feared because he doesn't speak — Casper because he isn't alive. Tommy spends countless amounts of time looking at his reflection in the mirror, trying to find out who he is, while the people around him haunt him by asking, "Tommy, can you hear me?" He really is saying what he wants ("See me, feel me, touch me, heal me"), but it's the "regular" people who can't hear him. Casper looks at the reflection of what he's trying to find (life) by looking at people who are living. They run screaming because they think that he is haunting them for no reason, but if they listened they would realise that what he wants is a friend ("Can I keep you?").

The Acid Queen asks Tommy to join her, because she is also a person who can't be heard. He refuses because he is considered too good. Casper's uncles want Casper to join them, but Casper is too good and friendly for that, too.

If you have never seen *Tommy* or never knew exactly what it was about before, you *will* have to see it, because it is an excellent play. The movie *Tommy* isn't so hot, but it serves the purpose.

You know, I'm getting more and more like my father every day. I start off talking about something and before I'm done I stray completely from the topic.

Speaking of straying from the topic, everyone in the world who is even slightly sick of our favourite football player in the world should read *OJ's Legal Pad*. It is hilarious — completely fabricated, but hilarious, nevertheless. My personal favourite is when a panic-stricken OJ writes a note saying "Johnnie, quick! In front of the jury, did I limp on my left leg or my right?"

I know my dad is going to be furious, because I only wrote a few paragraphs reviewing *Casper* and about a page talking about other stuff. Oh, well. But I digress.

*(Shana David, eldest daughter of Peter David, writer of stuff, finds it amusing that her local movie theatre paired the* Casper *sneak preview with* Village of the Damned. *Tee Hee.)* Everyone's trying to steal my style. Hmmf.

In any event, Shana may have put her finger on what makes Casper so effective as a character in this film. How often have teenagers felt disaffected, even invisible, only wanting a friend and wishing they could be liked for the type of person they are?

That pretty much covers *Casper*. Kat Harvey can only like Casper for his personality, because there's no body to go with it. And there's the ominous truth of Casper's deceased status. With violence in schools and death a possible consequence of sexual activity, morality is much more in-your-face than it was when we were kids. *Casper* is life-affirming. Nowadays, particularly in comics-related material, that's a breath of fresh air — from someone who can't even draw a breath.

© Peter David, 1995

*(Peter David, writer of stuff, can be written to at To Be Continued Inc., PO Box 239, Bayport, NY 11705. Yeah, the* Village of the Damned *tie-in was amusing. So is the marquee at the local multiplex which features, on one line:* Die Hard Casper*).*

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# NEWS
·EUROPE·

## Manga Publishing expands license

MANGA Publishing is releasing a manga collection series of some of the most popular Japanese-style characters to appear in print in America over the last five years.

● **Crying Freeman Volume One — Portrait of a Killer** collects the first series of the critically acclaimed organised crime thriller by Kazuo Koike and Ryoichi Ikegami.

● **AD Police** is set in Mega-Tokyo, after the second Kanto earthquake. The city is rebuilding itself with the aid of Boomers — the android workforce. But Boomers are prone to running amok and it is the job of the AD Police to protect the city from robots and dysfunctional residents.

Chihiro "Tony" Takezaki writes and illustrates the collection, which was adapted by Viz in 1992.

● **Dirty Pair: Biohazards** is a collection of Toren Smith and Adam Warren's US manga series, which was originally published by Dark Horse Comics in 1994.

● **Appleseed Book One: The Promethean Challenge** collects the critically-acclaimed Masamune (**Ghost in the Machine**) Shirow's first epic story, which tells of the struggle of a young warrior and her mentor in a dystopian future ruled by mega-corporations.

All the above books will be in black and white and retail for £7.99.

● **Bubblegum Crisis: Grand Mal** is a £9.99 trade paperback collection of Adam Warren's four-issue mini-series, originally produced for Dark Horse's manga imprint, and is based on the popular Japanese anime series. The video of the series is currently on sale.

## Savoy loses obscenity case

SAVOY Books is to appeal against a finding of obscenity against more than 4,000 comics which were seized from the publisher by Greater Manchester Police.

The stipendiary magistrate, Janet Hayward, rejected Savoy's arguments that the works were not obscene and should be made accessible to the general public because of the artistic and literary merits of the titles.

The banned comics are graphic sequels and offshoots of the **Lord Horror** novel by David Britton, which although found obscene in 1991 had the charge overturned at the appeal courts in 1992.

Mike Butterworth, publisher of Savoy, commented on the trial, "The implications to the comics industry — the freedom to create and publish hard-hitting material — could be enormous, yet no person from any trade journals has been present at any day of the hearing... I hope this will be remedied when we go back for the appeal."

The titles are **Lord Horror** 1 and 2; **Hard Core Horror** 1-5 and **Meng & Ecker** 1-3. The appeal will be held in the High Court in London later this year.

## IN BRIEF

### *Positive reaction*

GARY Spencer-Millidge's **Strangehaven** is to feature in the critically acclaimed Caliber anthology title **Negative Burn**.

Editor of the title Joe Pruett was so impressed with Spencer-Millidge's new series that he made room in the anthology — despite being planned out for the next 18 issues — for a showcase story.

The second issue of **Strangehaven**, from Abiogenesis Press, is currently in production for a September release.

### *Comics on film*

MICROCOLOUR International Limited has announced that after years of searching, they have finally located and microfilmed most of the Golden Age American comics onto colour microfiche.

The total microfiche sets consist of 53 titles, with over 1,600 issues. Among them are **Action Comics** 1-100, **Superman** 1-100, **Batman** 1-100, **Detective Comics** 1-100, **Adventure Comics** 1-127 and **Captain America** 1-60.

For details of purchase and prices, people should contact Hayk Hougasian at Microcolour International Ltd, Rylton House, 2 Hersham Road, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey or fax: 01932 247970.

### *Wilts exhibition*

WORLDS of Colour is an exhibition of comtemporary comic book and fantasy art being held between September 2nd and 23rd.

Organised by High Heels Production, the event is to be held at Fisherton Mill Design and Contemporary Craft Emporium, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Exhibitors include fantasy artist Chris Achilleos, plus comics creators Duncan (**Enigma**) Fegredo, Will (**Hellblazer**) Simpson and John Bolton.

For further information on the event contact Simon Joy on 01722 410242 or Leonie Nanassy on 01722 415121.

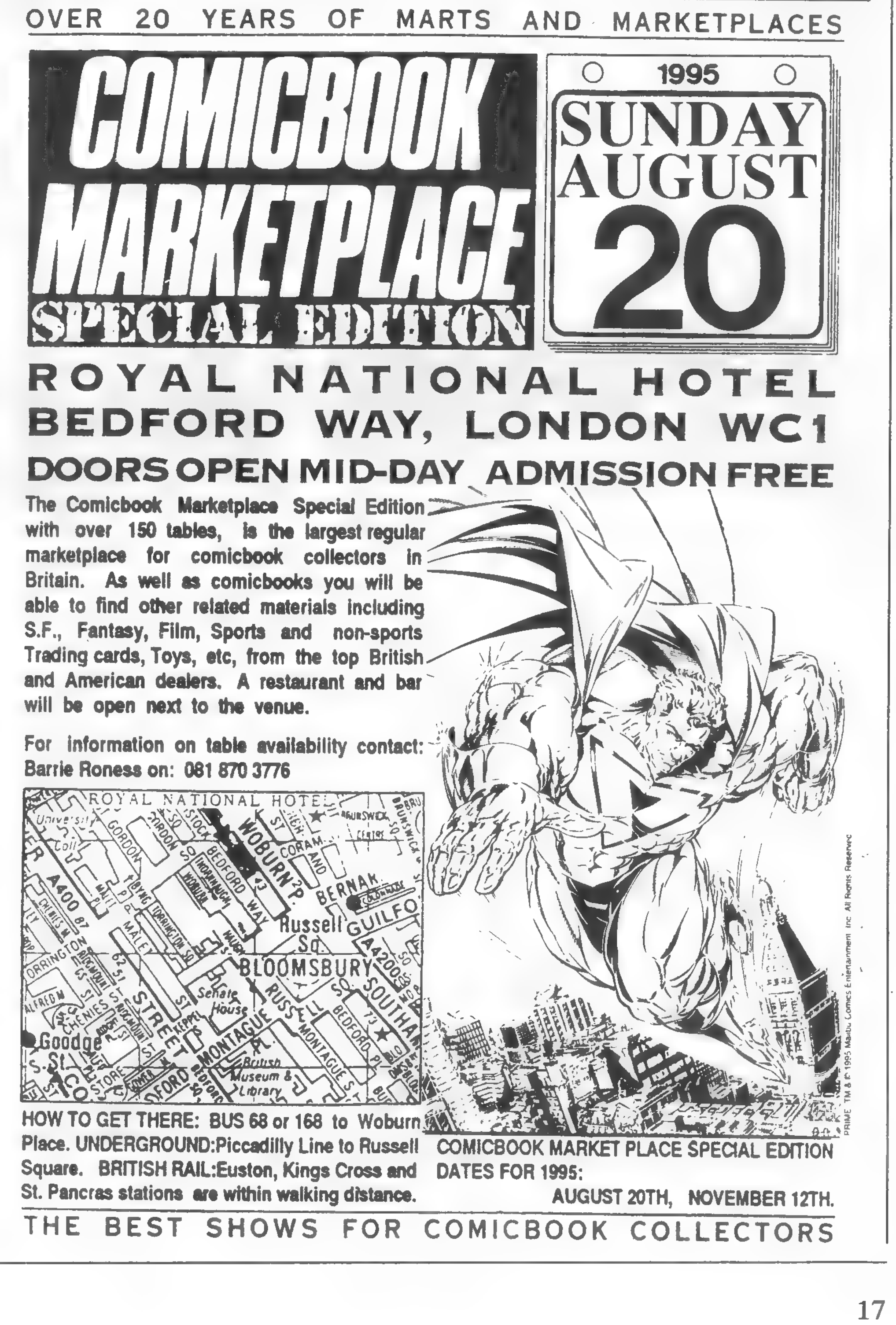
### *New Batman*

I LOVE To Read — **Batman** is a new monthly comic aimed at the six to ten year old market.

Its **Batman Adventures** strips are complemented by children's activity pages to focus more strongly on its target market than previous licensed editions. Priced £1.10, the first issue is now on sale.

### *Anime TV*

CHANNEL 4 started a season of anime films and manga documentaries on July 22nd with *Tokyo Babylon*. Further films to be shown include *Devilman*, *Doomed Megalopolis* and *Dominion*.



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# From small press to the big time

CAULDRON is a fully-painted comics series from a new UK independent publishing house, Real Comics, debuting in the autumn.

Steve Brown, the artist, writer and driving force behind the new venture, hopes that the new series will appeal to the growing number of readers of painted comics artwork which increased in popularity in the wake of the Alex Ross painted **Marvels** series in 1994.

Brown has been heartened by positive reaction from the major US distributors and he said, "**Cauldron** has the potential to be one of the success stories of 1995! Whatever happens, I think a fully painted, one-man comic from *any* creator is fairly unique, let alone from an English one. So I'm very hopeful."

He continued, "The story is a blend of high fantasy and gritty, contemporary action thriller — Tolkien meets *The Terminator*!"

**Cauldron** will utilise high production values, and will be printed at Ronalds in Canada using the full colour miraweb format employed for Marvel Select titles.

The first issue, which has a one-in-five special cover by Glenn Fabry, retails for $2.95 and ships from America in October.

# Panini take over Marvel UK

CLANDESTINE, the much-vaunted series from Alan Davis which parted company with its creator at issue 7, has been cancelled as of issue 12.

This was the first major cancellation resulting from Marvel's UK division being taken under control by the European sticker-album giant and Marvel (US) subsidiary, Panini.

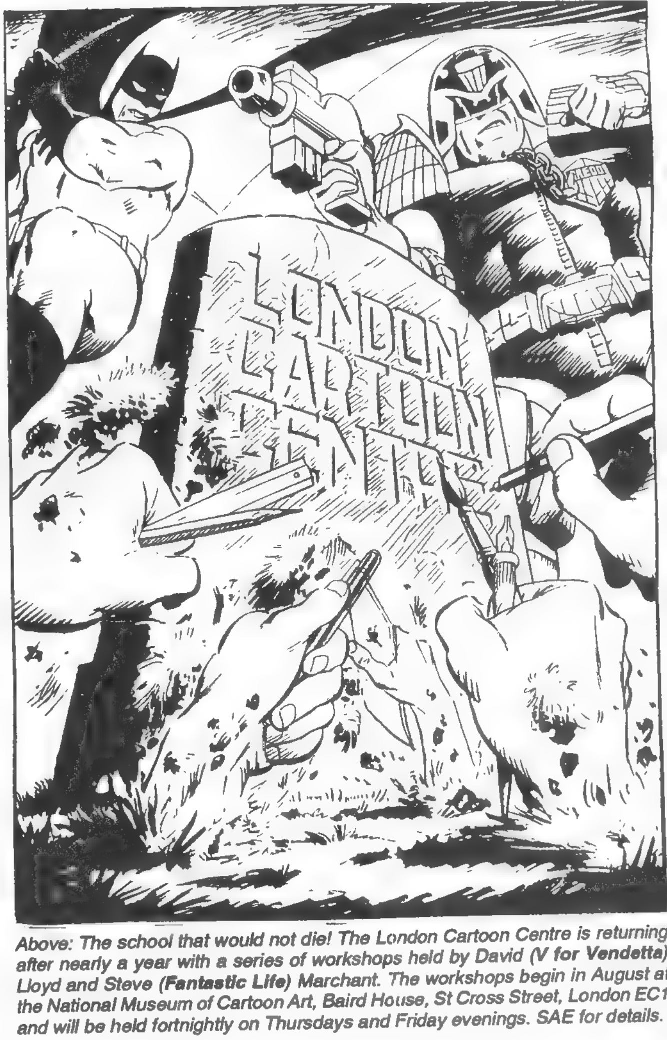
As a direct result of the Italian company taking control of Marvel UK, the company's senior staff has been laid off, including editor-in-chief Paul Neary (once again), Stuart Bartlett, Marcus Hearn and **Doctor Who** editor Gary Russell.

Panini's Aldo Salustro will now head the company, assisted by Richard Maskell, who will control the amalgamation of the two companies.

Ironically former editor Neary told **Comic World's** Steve Holland, in an interview about the imminent changes, "Something radical will be happening in terms of a new ethos coming to the driving seat: what Richard Maskell is doing is very logical. It makes sense to me — I think Marvel UK will be a leaner unit that's got more chance of making a profit."

The day after giving his statement, Neary became one of the casualties.

It now seems likely that the publisher will specialise in the more viable nursery titles and comics for a pre-teen audience. The **Nocturne**, **Death's Head** and **Captain Britain** projects have all been cancelled, along with the entire UK magazine line except **Doctor Who**, which was launched by our own Dez Skinn way back in 1979.



*Above: The school that would not die! The London Cartoon Centre is returning after nearly a year with a series of workshops held by David (**V for Vendetta**) Lloyd and Steve (**Fantastic Life**) Marchant. The workshops begin in August a the National Museum of Cartoon Art, Baird House, St Cross Street, London EC1 and will be held fortnightly on Thursdays and Friday evenings. SAE for details.*

# COMIC MARTS

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COMFORT FRIENDLY INN (VALIANT HOUSE), ANLABY ROAD, HULL

**LEEDS** **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd, OCTOBER 7th, NOVEMBER 4th**
LEEDS METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, BRUNSWICK HALL, MERRION WAY

**LEICESTER** **SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 10th, NOVEMBER 19th**
YMCA, GRANBY STREET, LEICESTER

**LIVERPOOL** **SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 24th**
GLADSTONE HOTEL, LORD NELSON STREET, LIVERPOOL

**MANCHESTER** **SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 30th**
SACHAS HOTEL, TIBB STREET, PICCADILLY

**NEWCASTLE** **SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 9th, NOVEMBER 11th**
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA, STUDENTS' UNION BALLROOM, SANDYFORD ROAD, NEWCASTLE

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**NOTTINGHAM** **SATURDAY: AUGUST 26th, OCTOBER 14th**
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**SHEFFIELD** **SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 16th, NOVEMBER 18th**
MAIN HALL, SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY, HOWARD STREET

**DEALERS: WRITE FOR INFORMATION PACK**
SEND SAE FOR FULL DETAILS:- GOLDEN ORBIT, 18 OAK TREE WAY, STRENSALL, YORK YO3 5TF

**OPENS MIDDAY**

# ADVANCE LISTINGS: UK

*With the majority of UK-produced comics, trade paperbacks and graphic novels not readily available, the following listing of material to be published next month gives readers the opportunity to order specific titles through newsagents, bookshops or specialist outlets. As such, only titles nationally distributed through federated news outlets are included. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Late shipping, cancellations and changes in content will be detailed in future issues of* ***Comics International.***

*Compiled by Kerry-Ann Hurley*

*Key to abbreviations used:*

1 & 2 + 3 = Writer & penciller + inker
wkly = weekly frequency
ftnly = fortnightly frequency
mthly = monthly frequency
o/s = oversized, larger than A4
dgst = small, approx A5 sized
sqbd = perfect bound; squared spine; without staples
b&w = black & white contents
clr = full colour contents
pc = part-colour contents
gn = graphic novel
thbk = trade hardback edition
tpbk = trade paperback, squarebound, comic size
Xpgs = number of interior pages
Mature = recommended for mature readers, may contain nudity, sex and/or extreme violence.

## TITLES ON SALE: SEPTEMBER

### ARF CARTOONS

**Smut: The Alternative Comic 60** (mthly; various) Adult humour comic featuring, amongst others: The Booze Bros, Judge Fred, Dick Ed, Fat Idle Bastard and Farmer Piles. Mature. 40pgs pc ... £1.25

### BLOOMSBURY

**Leap of Faith** (tpbk; Maekawa) The continuing adventures of martial arts expert Chinmi. 190pgs b/w ............. £3.99

**Victory of the Spirit** (tpbk; Maekawa) More adventures of Takeshi Maekawa's kung fu boy Chinmi. 190pgs b/w ..... £3.99

### BOXTREE BOOKS

**Aliens vs Predator Book 2** (tpbk; Claremont & Barreto) Collected from Dark Horse's mini series; part two of the Chris Claremont saga about multi-national intrigue, illegal slave trading and interstellar travel. 144pgs clr ............ £9.99

**Species** (gn; Foster + Kane & Tierny + Bolton) Comic adaptation of MGM's new science fiction thriller about a classified US Army experiment in alien/human genetics, resulting in a creature that can metamorphosise into any form based on its environment. 128pgs clr ............ £8.99

**Star Wars Classic 3** (tpbk; Murtaugh & Manning) Collecting the Dark Horse mini-series of Russ Manning's newspaper strip. With the rebels looking for support, Darth Vader is aware that any attack by the Empire would only bring sympathy for Skywalker and his companions. 128pgs clr £8.99

### DC THOMSON

**Beano 2772-2776** (wkly; various) Humour comic strips including regulars: Dennis the Menace & Gnasher and Minnie the Minx. Issue 2774 has a free Double Lolly, 2775 has a Snappers gift and with issue 2776, free Pez sweets and a Tropical Fruit Pastilles competition. 24pgs clr .... £0.38

**Beano Comic Library Monthly 323-324** (2 per mth; dgst; various) Extra-long comic stories featuring the most popular **Beano** characters. 68pgs pc ..... £0.50

**Beano Superstars 45** (mthly; various) One complete full-length humour strip in each issue. 48pgs clr .................. £1.10

**Bunty 1964-1968** (wkly; various) Picture and photo stories plus features for girls. 32pgs pc £0.50

**Bunty Picture Library 402-403** (2 per mth; dgst; various) One full-length comic strip per issue. 68pgs b/w .................. £0.50

**Commando Action & Adventure Stories 2883-2890** (8 per mth; dgst; various) War strips set mostly in World War II. 68pgs b&w ................. £0.50

**Dandy 2806-2810** (wkly; various) Humour anthology including regulars: Desperate Dan and Korky the Cat. Issue 2807 has a zip tag gift and a Robertsons traffic jam competition, issue 2808 has a free Fruity Pops lolly. Pez sweets are the gift on issue 2809. And 2810 has free Nerds sweets and a Tropical Fruit Pastilles competition. 24pgs clr .... £0.38

**Dandy Comic Library Monthly 299-300** (2 per mth; various) Extra long comic stories of the favourite **Dandy** characters. 68pgs pc £0.50

**Football Picture Story Monthly 223-224** (2 per mth; various) Comic strip soccer stories. 68pgs pc .................. £0.50

**Mandy & Judy 225-228** (wkly; various) Comic strip stories plus features and pet pin-ups for girls. 32pgs pc ............... £0.50

**Mandy & Judy Picture Library 224-225** (2 per mth; dgst; various) One full-length comic story per issue. 68pg b&w ........ £0.50

### FLEETWAY EDITIONS

**Bugs Bunny 44** (mthly; various) Humour reprint with Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck plus other Warner Bros characters. Free gift. 32pgs clr .................... £1.05

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NEW TRINITY COMMUNITY CENTRE
Trinity Road, St. Philips, Bristol
SATURDAY 2nd SEPT
FUTURE DATES: NOV 25

SWINDON
OASIS LEISURE CENTRE
North Star Avenue, Swindon
SATURDAY 9th SEPT
FUTURE DATES: TBA

EXETER
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**Buster 18-20** (ftnly; various) Humour comic featuring Buster, Chalky and others. Free gift with issue 20. 32pgs clr ...... £0.80

**BVC 16-17** (ftnly; various) Reprint compilation from Fleetway humour titles. Free gifts with both issues. 68pgs b&w ....... £1.00

**Classic 2000AD 2** (mthly; various) Reprinting *Mean Machine: Travels with muh Shrink* (Wagner & Dolan) and *Anderson Psi Division: The Random Man* (Grant & Ezquerra). Cover by Nick Percival. 68pgs clr ....... £1.50

**Classic Judge Dredd 3** (mthly; various) Featuring the reprint of the fatties story: *The Magnificent Obsession* (Wagner + Grant & Kennedy). Cover art by Charlie Gillespie. 68pgs clr ...... £1.50

**Flintstones 18** (mthly; various) Humour comic with Fred Flintstone and his stone age friends. Plus the space age family the Jetsons. 32pgs clr .... £0.95

**Garfield 10** (mthly; various) Comic strips and puzzles featuring Garfield the cat. 52pgs clr £1.60

**Judge Dredd: Lawman of the Future 5** (ftnly; various) Judge Dredd anthology featuring: *Homunculus* (pt 2, Rennie & Sheeer), *Graveyard Shift* (pt 1, Rennie & Longcroft) and *Law Breaker Blues* (R. Morrison & Murray). Cover art by Jim Murray. 36pgs. clr .............. £1.00

**Judge Dredd: Lawman of the Future 6** (ftnly; various) Comic strips: *Graveyard Shift* (pt 2, Rennie & Longcroft), *Law Master* (R. Morrison & Ronald) and *Quake* (pt 1, Furman & O'Ready). Cover art: Jim Murray. 36pgs clr £1.00

**Judge Dredd Megazine Vol 3 #5** (ftnly; various) Anthology continuing *Judge Dredd: Three Amigos* (Wagner & Hairsine), *Anderson: Satan* (Grant & Ranson), *Harmony: Genocide* (Standley & Sampson), *Missionary Man/Harke & Burr* (Spencer + Rennie & Ormston) plus the complete Dredd story *Tattoo Hell* (Alexander & Sanders). Cover art: Jason Brashill. 52pgs clr . £1.80

**Judge Dredd Megazine Vol 3 #6** (ftnly; various) Special 5th anniversary issue continuing: *Judge Dredd: Three Amigos* (Wagner & Hairsine), *Anderson: Satan* (Grant & Ranson), *Harmony: Genocide* (Standley & Sampson), *Missionary Man/Harke & Burr* (Spencer + Rennie & Ormston) plus *Pan African Judges: Fever of the Gods* (pt 1, Akinsiku & Akinsiku). 52pgs clr ..... £1.80

**Mickey & Friends 35-38** (wkly; various) Comic strips featuring Disney characters: Mickey Mouse; Goofy; Uncle Scrooge; Huey, Dewey & Louie. Free cover-mounted gifts on #35 & #36. 32pgs clr. .................. £0.80

**Sonic the Comic 60-61** (ftnly; various) Features, game reviews and comic strips. 36pgs clr £1.15

**Tom & Jerry 19** (mthly; various) Comic strip humour from the renowned cat and mouse duo. Free gift. 44pgs clr .......... £1.00

**2000AD 956-959** (wkly; various) Anthology concluding: *Bad Frendz* (Wagner & Ezquerra), *Luke Kirby* (McKenzie & Parkhouse), *Vector 13* (Abnett & Phillips) and *Slaine* (Mills & Staples). With new stories: *Maniac 6* (Millar & Yeowell + Hadley), *Return of Slaine: Lord of Misrule* (Mills & Langley + Cox), *The Cal Files* (Wagner & Burns), *Durham Red: Deals* (Hogan & Harrison) and *Hammerstein* (Mills & Brashill). Plus one-off Dredd tales: *To Thing With Love* (Wagner & Ezquerra), *The Decision* (Wagner & Currie) and *Awakening of Angels* (Wagner & Ezquerra). 44pgs clr ... £1.00

### JOHN BROWN PUBLICATIONS

**Viz 74** (bi-monthly; various) Adult humour featuring Biffa Bacon, Fat Slags, Sid the Sexist, Cockney Wanker and the other regulars. Mature. 52pgs pc ........ £1.25

### LEAF PUBLISHING

**Thunderbirds Are Go! 9 & 10** (ftnly; various) Reprint strips of Gerry Anderson's popular creations: Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Stingray and Fireball XL5. 32pgs clr .......... £0.99

### MAI COMICS

**Spit 33** (mthly; various) Adult humour featuring Teenage Mum, Whitley Baywatch, Ugly Dudley, The Twats Nextdoor, The Three Muffkateers, Difficult Youth and others. Mature. 52pgs pc . £1.25

### MANGA PUBLISHING

**AD Police** (tpbk; Takezaki) Set in the year 2032, Mega-Tokyo is rebuilding after the second Kanto earthquake. Frontline officers Leon McNicholl & Jeena Malso of the AD Police have plenty to cope with, including a specially created android workforce, that goes out of control causing chaos and destruction. 148pgs b&w . £7.99

**Appleseed 1: The Promethean Challenge** (tpbk; Shirow) Earth lies devastated after World War III. The survivors are gathered in Olympus City, a technological paradise. But dangerous rebels still dwell in the Badside Zones, among them are Deunan and her cyborg companion Briareos-H. 196pgs b&w ........... £7.99

**Bubblegum Crisis: Grand Mal** (tpbk; Warren) Set in the devastated metropolis Mega-Tokyo, a shadowy hi-tech vigilante group, the Knight Sabers, are taking the law into their own hands. The all female band of warriors wear powered-armour "hard suits" in battles against the menaces that threaten the city. 104pgs clr ............ £9.99

**Crying Freedom 1: Portrait of a Killer** (tpbk; Koike & Ikegami) Mr Yoh is the ultimate assassin, lethally trained in martial arts and oriental weaponry. He is forced by crime syndicate The 108 Dragons to act against his will and longs to break free of their control. 236pgs b&w ........... £7.99

**The Dirty Pair: Biohazards** (tpbk; Smith & Warren) Kei and Yuri, the Dirty Pair, are on the trail of a lethal biological warfare agent, resulting in the usual comical chaos of explosions, infernos and casualties. 116pgs b&w .................. £7.99

**Manga Mania 27** (mthly; various) Features, reviews and the very latest manga news, plus comic strips including *Akira* (Otamo), *Dirty Pair* (Smith & Warren) and the futuristic *Striker* (Tagashige + Minagawa). 132pgs pc ... £2.50

**Mortal Kombat 2** (mthly; various) Based on the hardest-hitting video game of them all, reprinting the second part of the Malibu Comics' martial arts story *Blood and Thunder*. Plus features, tips and background details on the characters. Free *Mortal Kombat* postcards. 32pgs clr ...... £0.95

NEW **Space Precinct 1** (ftnly; Anderson) From Gerry Anderson's latest SF TV show for Sky. After 25 years on the NYPD, Lieutenant Patrick Brogan thought a transfer from the mean streets of New York would be a good move. But what he finds on the streets of the intergalactic outpost Demeter City is even worse! Comic strips, posters, features, behind-the-scenes photos plus a free pair of manga 3D glasses. 36pgs clr ........ £1.25

**Streetfighter II #13** (mthly, various) The third part of the comic book adaptation of Manga's new *Streetfighter II* video. 36pgs clr .................... £0.95

**Tank Girl 4** (mthly; various) Featuring the cult heroine of the Nineties in the conclusion of *Tank Girl: The Odyssey* (Milligan & Hewlett), reprinted from DC's Vertigo mini-series. Also, features and back-up comic strips with Booga and Fireball plus Milk and Cheese. 68pgs clr ........ £1.95

**X-Files 5** (mthly; various) The official magazine of the hit TV series with part two of *Firebird*. FBI agents Mulder and Scully find themselves on the trail of a mysterious creature which feeds on atomic energy. Plus exclusive features, news, interviews and a free *X-Files* poster. 36pgs clr£1.25

### MARVEL (UK)

**Beavis and Butt-Head 15** (mthly; various) Comic strips featuring the controversial cult MTV characters. 32pgs clr £0.99

**Complete X-Men 1** (mthly; various) Rescheduled to launch October 1995.

**Casper The Friendly Ghost 2** (mthly; various) Comic strips starring Casper to tie in with the new Steven Spielberg film. 36pgs clr .................... £0.99

CANCELLED **Clive Barker's Hellbreed**

**Doctor Who Magazine 230** (mthly; various) Features and news plus a new comic strip. 52pgs pc .................... £2.75

**Exploits of Spider-Man 39** (mthly; various) Reprint anthology including stories from: **Amazing S-M, S-M 2099**, vintage **Amazing S-M** and **Spectacular S-M**. 100pgs clr ............ £2.35

**Hammer Horror**: title on hold.

**Power Rangers 8 & 9** (now ftnly; various) Comic strip adventures and features based on the popular Sky TV series. 32pgs clr .. £0.99

**The Ren & Stimpy Show 13** (mthly; various) Reprint title based on the cult animated TV series. 32pgs clr ........ £0.99

**X-Men 21-22** (ftnly; various) US reprint tie-in with the animated series on BBC TV. 32pgs clr £0.85

### SAVOY BOOKS

**Reverbstorm 5** (Britton & Coulthart) Subversive anthology featuring Lord Horror and mutant twins Meng and Ecker. Mature. 56pgs b&w ............ £3.50

### THE REDAN COMPANY

**I Love to Read Batman 3** (mthly; various) Comic strips featuring Batman, Robin and other DC superheroes. Also including pull out posters, hero files and an eight page activities section. 32pgs clr .................... £1.10

### TITAN BOOKS

**Enigma** (tpbk; Milligan & Fegredo) Collecting DC Vertigo's mini-series. **The Enigma** was once Michael Smith's favourite comic book. Now it has come to life and changed everything. Michael embarks on a journey of self-discovery that will shock, sicken and eventually delight him when he leaves everything behind and sets out to find *The Enigma*. 206pgs clr ............ £12.50

**Mortal Kombat: Blood and Thunder** (tpbk; Marshall & Rolo) Rescheduled from April. Based on the hugely successful arcade and video game. Nine of the world's most skilled warriors compete in a monumental tournament for global supremacy. 144pgs clr ... £7.99

**Simpsons' Comic Spectacular** (tpbk; Groening & various) A collection of stories from Bongo Comics' huge success *The Simpsons*. With Bart, Lisa, Homer and all the supporting characters from the comic and TV show. 128pgs clr ............ £6.99

**Star Trek Monthly #8** (mthly, various) Covering all aspects of the Star Trek universe. This month focuses on the new Sky TV *Voyager* series and features interviews with Brent Spiner, Tim Russ (Tuvok) and Robert Picardo (The Doc). 68pgs clr ..... £2.95

**Superman/Doomsday: Hunter/Prey** (tpbk; Jurgens & Breeding) One year after the evil cyborg Superman hurled Doomsday's body into space, the real Superman is still haunted by memories of his death in battle. The story of the rematch collected from DC's **Superman/Doomsday** mini-series. 144pgs clr ... £9.99

**WildC.A.T.S.** (tpbk; Lee + Choi) Collecting the first adventures of Jim Lee's **WildC.A.T.S.**, introducing the team and their major foes, the Daemonites and the Cabal. Plus a gallery of Lee's preliminary sketch work for the series. 136pgs clr ........ £7.99

### TOWER MAGAZINES

**Action Man 5 & 6** (ftnly; various) Comic strips featuring GI Joe, the ultimate boys' adventure hero. 24pgs clr ............. £0.99

### ZIT COMICS

**Zit 59** (mthly; various) Adult **Viz** style humour featuring The Sex Files, The Morons, Billy No Mates, Beaver and Bumhead plus others. Mature. 48pgs pc ........ £1.35

# FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

## AUCTIONEERS OF THE FANTASTIC

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## Closing Date for Bids: 10th September 1995

## BIDDING INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

- You may bid either by letter, telephone or fax although written confirmation of telephone bids will be required.
- Telephone bids will be accepted from 11.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday on **0181-298 1363**; written bids and confirmation of telephone bids should be sent to **Flights of Fantasy, 82-B Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW**. Fax bids should be sent to **0181-298 0061**.
- Please ensure that you quote a lot number & a brief description for each lot you are bidding on.
- All bids must be postmarked not later than the closing date indicated. Late bids will not be accepted.
- If possible, please provide a telephone number where you can be contacted should the need arise.
- Bidding may be by one of the following methods:
  a) A single price indicating the amount you are willing to pay for the lot(s) in question.
  b) A spread indicating the minimum and maximum prices you are willing to pay for the lot(s) in question. In this instance, we will bid on your behalf (in the increments shown below) against other interested parties to the maximum you have indicated.
- Bids should be 10% or £1.00 (whichever is the greater) above the previous high bid.
- In the event of a tied bid, the earliest bid received will be successful.
- Minimum bid on any lot is £5.00 except in the case of original artwork where it is £15.00. Bids should be in whole £'s.
- Anticipated selling prices are shown after each lot. Lots may sell for more or less than the indications given.
- Reserve priced lots are indicated although the actual reserve prices are not. Should bidding on such lots fail to reach the reserve price the lot(s) will be withdrawn.
- Successful bidders will be notified within 10 days of the closing date for bids. Payment will be required within 10 days of confirmation of success.
- A buyer's premium of 10% will be added to the value of each successful bid.
- Postage will be charged on all successful bids at the rate of £1.50 plus 25p per lot (minimum £1.75) to a maximum of £4.50. Successful bidders from outside the United Kingdom will be charged postage at cost plus £1.50.
- In fairness to all bidders, all successful bids must be honoured.
- Please telephone **0181-298 1363** from 11.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday should you require any clarification or further information. We will be pleased to assist you.

**All items are very strictly graded and are in a minimum of very fine condition unless otherwise stated. Usual grading terms (vfn = very fine, fn = fine, vg = very good, f = fair, p = poor (but complete) apply with the addition of the following abbreviations:** *sl = slight/small; hvy = heavy/large; b&w = black & white interior pages; bkshp stmp = bookshop stamp; cnr knk = corner knocked; cntr pgs ls = centre pages loose; crsd bcvr = creased back cover; crsd cvr = creased front cover; dtch cvr = detached cover (completely off staples); lbl on cvr = (price) label on cover; lbl stn bcvr = (price) label stain on back cover; lbl stn cvr = (price) label stain on front cover; ls cvr = loose cover (generally off one staple; mkd bcvr = marked back cover; mkd cvr = marked front cover; po bcvr = piece out of back cover; po cvr = piece out of front cover; rld spn = rolled spine; rsty stpls = rusty staples; sld back cover = soiled (grubby) back cover; sld cvr = soiled (grubby) front cover; splt spn = split spine; stnd = stained; tpd spn = taped spine; trn bcvr = torn back cover; trn cvr = torn front cover; wro bcvr = writing on back cover; wro cvr = writing on front cover; wtr bnt = water bent; wtr wrnkld = water wrinkled (not as bad as wtr bnt).* **An asterisk (*) indicates that there is a distributor's price stamp on the front cover. Unless otherwise stated, no multiple lots include duplicates.**

**Overseas Customers** please note that although all American comics published from the mid-1980s onward carry either a US price only or dual (both American and British) prices, this was not always the case with Marvel comics. Marvel's policy was to print some (but not all) issues with either a US or a British price although there was no other difference between issues so priced. Whichever price was on the cover, the copies were all printed at the same time - the only difference being a change to the black plate for the cover to modify the price. British priced comics are not different editions but we have highlighted such copies by including the word "pence" in the grade where applicable.

Where issues carried only a US price, the UK distributor often stamped the British price on the cover, almost always with a black ink circle 1" in diameter. Most British collectors do not consider this a defect but for those that do we have indicated such copies by including an asterisk (*) in the grade where applicable.

# LOTS

## DC COMICS

**95/205: ADVENTURE COMICS #282** (vg/cvr ls/*) - Fifth appearance of the Legion of Super-Heroes; intro & origin of Star Boy. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£17-26)*

**95/206: ADVENTURE COMICS #285** (vg+/*) - First ***Tales of the Bizarro World***. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£12-19)*

**95/207: ADVENTURE COMICS #286** (vg-/*) - Intro Bizarro Mr Mxyzptlk. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-12)*

**95/208: ADVENTURE COMICS #290** (vg+/*) - Eighth appearance of the Legion of Super-Heroes; intro Sunboy. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£20-30)*

**95/209: ADVENTURE COMICS #293** (vg+/*) - Thirteenth appearance of the Legion of Super-Heroes; intro & origin of the Legion of Super-Pets; intro Super-Horse; intro Bizarro Lex Luthor & Bizarro Kandor. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£12-18)*

**95/210: ADVENTURE COMICS #294** (vg-/*) - Intro Bizarro Marilyn Monroe & Bizarro President Kennedy. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£7-11)*

**95/211: ADVENTURE COMICS #300** (vg/cntr pgs dtchd/*) - First ***Tales of the Legion of Super-Heroes*** series. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£50-75)*

**95/212: AQUAMAN [1962] #7** (vg/cvr ls/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£8-13)*

**95/213: THE ATOM #7** (vg+/sl mkd cvr/*) - First Atom & Hawkman team-up. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£28-42)*

**95/214: BATMAN #128** (g/*) - Batwoman cameo. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£11-16)*

**95/215: BATMAN #134** (vg/*) - Origin of the Dummy. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£13-19)*

**95/216: BATMAN #137** (vg-/cvr ls/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price* (£12-18)

**95/217: BATMAN #139** (fn/*) - Intro the original Batgirl; only appearance of Signalman as the Blue Bowman. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£24-36)*

**95/218: BATMAN #142** (fn+/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£24-37)*

**95/219: BATMAN: VENGEANCE OF BANE SPECIAL #1** - Intro & origin of Bane. *Reserve Price (£10-14)*

**95/220: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #28** (fn-) - Intro the Justice League of America; intro Starro the Conqueror; intro & origin of Snapper Carr. *Reserve Price (£933-1,400)*

**95/221: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #29** (vg/*) - Second appearance of the Justice League of America. *Reserve Price (£233-350)*

**95/222: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #30** (f) - Third appearance of the Justice League of America. *Reserve Price (£66-100)*

**95/223: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #34** (vg+/*) - Intro & origin of the Silver Age Hawkman, Hawkgirl & Byth; first Silver Age Hawkman try-out series; Joe Kubert art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£315-472)*

**95/224: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #35** (vg/sl po bcvr + pp 25-32/*) - Second appearance of the Silver Age Hawkman; Joe Kubert art. [TRBC] *Reserve*

## GUARANTEE

All lots are graded very strictly but any unsatisfactory item not as described may be returned within 7 days of receipt for a full refund.

Please note that only complete lots may be returned (i.e. in the event of dissatisfaction with part of a multiple lot, the entire lot must be returned).

*Price (£70-105)*

**95/225: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #36** (vg+/*) - Third apperance of the Silver Age Hawkman; intro & origin of Shadow Thief; Joe Kubert art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£68-102)*

**95/226: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #43** (vg+/*) - Hawkman; origin retold in more detail; Joe Kubert art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£33-66)*

**95/227: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #44** (vg/*) - Hawkman; Joe Kubert art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£28-42)*

**95/228: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #54** (vg-/*) - Intro & origin of the Teen Titans: Kid Flash, Aqualad & Robin. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£28-42)*

**95/229: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #57** (vfn-/*) - Intro & origin of Metamorpho; Ramona Fradon art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£30-45)*

**95/230: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #58** (fn-/cvr & pp 1-8 & 28-32 ls/v sl wro cvr/*) - Second appearance of Metamorpho; Ramona Fradon art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£10-15)*

**95/231: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD [1955] #62** (vg wtr rpld bcvr) - Second Golden Age Starman & Black Canary team-up; first Silver Age appearance of Golden Age Wildcat and Huntress. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£7-10)*

**95/232: CAPTAIN ACTION #1** (vfn-/v sl mkd cvr/*) - Origin of Captain Action; Wally Wood inks. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£14-21)*

**95/233: CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN [1958] #17** (fn-/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£25-31)*

**95/234: CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN [1958] #18** (fn/2.5" splt spn/stpl ls/*) - Intro Cosmo, the Challengers' space pet! [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£30-45)*

**95/235: CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN [1958] #19** (fn+/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£32-48)*

**95/236: EIGHTY PAGE GIANT #2: JIMMY OLSEN** (fn+/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£36-54)*

**95/237: GREEN LANTERN [1960] #1** (g/*) - Origin of Green Lantern retold; intro the Guardians of the Universe; Gil Kane art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£186-280)*

**95/238: GREEN LANTERN [1960] #2** (vg/hvy crsd cvr/*) - intro Pieface; Gil Kane art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£105-157)*

**95/239: GREEN LANTERN [1960] #6** (vg+/splt spn/*) - intro Tomar-Re, the alien Green Lantern; Gil Kane art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£36-54)*

**95/240: HAWKMAN [1964] #1** (fn+/*) - Murphy Anderson art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£106-159)*

**95/241: HOUSE OF MYSTERY #156** (fn/*) - Includes intro & origin of Robby Reed... ***Dial H for Hero***; includes ***J'onn J'onzz, Manhunter from Mars***. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£16-24)*

**95/242: HOUSE OF SECRETS #77** (nm-/v sl mkd cvr/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£8-12)*

**95/243: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1** (vg-) - Intro & origin of Despero. *Reserve Price (£400-600)*

**95/244: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #2** (vg-) - *Reserve Price (£90-135)*

**95/245: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #3** (vg+) - Intro * origin of Kanjar Ro. *Reserve Price (£88-132)*

**95/246: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #6** (fn-/*) - Intro & origin of Professor Amos Fortune. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£46-70)*

**95/247: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #7** (fn-/*) - Last 10 cent issue. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£46-70)*

**95/248: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #12** (fn+/*) - Intro & origin of Dr Light. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£42-63)*

**95/249: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #16** (fn+/sl wro cvr/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£42-63)*

**95/250: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #29** (vfn-/v sl mkd bcvr/*) - Third Justice Society of America cross-over; first Silver Age appearance of the Golden Age Starman. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£24-36)*

**95/251: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #31** (fn/sl mkd bcvr/*) - Hawkman joins the JLA; Hawkgirl cameo. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£20-30)*

**95/252: METAMORPHO [1965] #1** (p/*) - Third appearance of Metamorpho; Ramona Fraden art + **METAMORPHO #2** (fn+/*) - Ramona Fraden art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£11-17)*

**95/253: METAMORPHO [1965] #3** (fn-v sl wro cvr/*) - Romona Fraden art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£7-10)*

**95/254: THE PHANTOM STRANGER [1969] #1** (vfn-/*) - Second Silver Age appearance of the Phantom Stranger. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£13-20)*

**95/255: RIP HUNTER, TIME MASTER #16** (fn/sl po bcvr/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£12-18)*

**95/256: RIP HUNTER, TIME MASTER #19** (fn-/sl wtr rpld cvr/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£10-15)*

**95/257: SEA DEVILS #5** (fn-/*) - Russ Heath art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£20-30)*

**95/258: SEA DEVILS #14** (fn/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-14)*

**95/259: SHOWCASE #30** (vg+/sl po cvr/*) - Origin of the Silver Age Aquaman. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£90-140)*

**95/260: SHOWCASE #31** (vg+/sl trn cvr/*) - Aquaman. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£48-72)*

**95/261: SHOWCASE #41** (vg+/cvr dtchd/pp 1-6 & 28-32 ls/*) - Tommy Tomorrow. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£16-24)*

**95/262: SHOWCASE #47** (fn/sl wro cvr/*) - Tommy Tomorrow. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£15-22)*

**95/263: SHOWCASE #55** (vg/*) - Doctor Fate & Hourman team-up; origin of each in text; first solo Silver Age appearance of the Golden Age Green Lantern; first Silver Age appearance of Solomon Grundy. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£22-33)*

**95/264: SHOWCASE #56** (fn/*) - Doctor Fate & Hourman team-up. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£12-18)*

**95/265: SHOWCASE #76** (fn+/*) - Intro Bat Lash; Nick Cardy art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£10-15)*

**95/266: SUPERMAN [1939] ANNUAL #1** (vg) - Includes reprints from ***Actions Comics*** #252 - intro Supergirl; ***[Superman's Girlfriend] Lois Lane*** #1; first Silver Age DC annual. *Reserve Price (£80-120)*

**95/267: SUPERMAN [1939] ANNUAL #7** (fn-/*) - Silver Anniversary issue! Includes reprints from ***Superboy*** #75, ***Superman*** #124 & ***Action Comics*** #232 & 238. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£20-30)*

**95/268: SUPERMAN [1939] ANNUAL #8** (fn/0.75" splt spn/*/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£18-27)*

**95/269: [THE SAGA OF] SWAMP THING #20** (nm-) - First Alan Moore Swamp Thing story. *Reserve Price (£12-15)*

**95/270: 5 x THE WITCHING HOUR - #1** (fn+/*) - Includes Alex Toth art; includes Neal Adams art; **#2** (fn+/*) - Includes Alex Toth art; **#3** (vfn-/*) - Includes Alex Toth pencils & art; Includes Berni Wrightson art; **#4** (fn+/*) - Includes Alex Toth art; **#5** (vfn-/*) - Includes Alex Toth art; includes Berni Wrightson art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£11-18)*

**95/271: WORLD'S FINEST #109** (vg-/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-13)*

**95/272: WORLD'S FINEST #111** (vg-/*) - Intro the Clock King. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£7-11)*

**95/273: WORLD'S FINEST #112** (vg+/cvr + pp 1/2 & 31/32 ls/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-14)*

**95/274: WORLD'S FINEST #113** (vg/*) - Intro Miss Arrowette in ***Green Arrow***, first Bat-Mite/Mr Mxyzptlk team-up. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-12)*

**95/275: WORLD'S FINEST #115** (vg+/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-14)*

**95/276: WORLD'S FINEST #116** (vg+/cvr dtchd/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-14)*

**95/277: WORLD'S FINEST #117** (vg/cvr ļs) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£9-12)*

**95/278: WORLD'S FINEST #120** (fn-/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price ((£9-14)*

**95/279: WORLD'S FINEST #121** (fn/*) - Last 10 cent issue. [TRBC] *Reserve Price (£12-18)*

## ORIGINAL ART

*NB: a) page numbers quoted in this section are story pages unless otherwise stated; b) artists are listed as penciller/inker; c) all art is black & white unless noted otherwise.*

*All artwork carries a reserve price. Minimum bid is £15.*

**95/280: BELARDINELLI - 2000AD #234 pages 3-7** - 5 page *Ace Trucking Co* story. *(£80-120)*

**95/281: BELARDINELLI - 2000AD #247 cover** - Ace Trucking Co; GBH on the rampage! *(£50-70)*

**95/282: ERIC BRADBURY - 2000AD #743. pages 20-24** - 5 page ***Tharg's Future Shock*** story (*A Pact with the Devil*); all text on overlays; all 5 pages in colour & signed by Eric. *(£115-150)*

**95/283: RICHARD CASE/STAN WOCH - DOOM PATROL #30 page 22** - Robotman & Crazy Jane vs "Daddy". *(£25-35)*

**95/284: ALAN DAVIS - AQUAMAN (UNPUBLISHED) MINI SERIES #1 page 17** - A truly unique page featuring Alan's pencils only (circa 1985). This page was never inked due to Alan being offered ***Batman and the Outsiders*** - the series was subsequently published with pencils by Neal Pozner. *(£60-90)*

**95/285: ALAN DAVIS/PAUL NEARY - UNCANNY X-MEN ANNUAL 11 cover** - This cover shows Wolverine & Storm in battle surrounded by the faces of the other X-Men. It is made up of two separate pieces of art, one featuring Wolverine & Storm and their opponent, the other the faces of the other X-Men. Also included is an overlay reproducing the X-Men's faces to establish how the printed cover would look. An unusual and interesting to any art collection! *(£120-160)*

**95/286: ALAN DAVIS/PAUL NEARY - WOLVERINE: BLOODLUST page 44** - Superb action page with additional original art (effects) on an overlay. *(£70-90)*

**95/287: CARLOS EZQUERRA - 2000AD #255 page 21** - ***Judge Dredd***; Dredd heavily featured *(£22-30)*

**95/288: CARLOS EZQUERRA - 2000AD #367 pages 23-27** - 5 page ***Strontium Dog*** story (*Outlaw* part 5). *(£80-120)*

**95/289: BRYAN HITCH/JOE RUBINSTEIN - WHAT IF...? #58 cover** - Wolverine front and centre! Signed by Bryan. *(£50-80)*

**95/290: BRYAN HITCH - WHAT IF...? #59 page 1** - Splash page; Wolverine and the Watcher to the fore; signed by Bryan. *(£45-60)*

**95/291: BRYAN HITCH/ANDY LANNING - X-FACTOR #105 page 6** - Action page with Polaris and Mr Sinister strongly featured; signed on the front by Bryan and on the back by Bryan & Andy. *(£25-35)*

**95/292: BRYAN HITCH/ANDY LANNING - X-FACTOR #105 page 12** - Almost a splash page (!) of all-out action with Strong Guy exploding out of the page! Signed on the front by Bryan and on the back by Bryan & Andy. *(£35-45)*

**95/293: MIKE MCMAHON - 2000AD #358 cover** - Slaine; sky chariots on fire. *(£65-90)*

**95/294: LEE MODER/JOE RUBINSTEIN (OR JOSE MARZAN JNR OR TERRY BEATTY!) - ACTION COMMICS ANNUAL #5 page 1** - Superb splash page featuring only Superman flying out of the page at you! *(£25-40)*

**95/295: DAVID ROSS/TIM D'ZON - AVENGERS WEST COAST #98 page 19** - The Lethal Legion vs U.S. Agent. *(£30-50)*

**95/296: VAL SEMEIKS - LOBO #7 page 24** - A fraggin' big explosion! *(£40-50)*

**95/297: RON SMITH - 2000AD #336 page 5** - ***Judge Dredd***; all-out action featuring Dredd. *((£22-30)*

**95/298: RON SMITH - 2000AD #338 page 3** - ***Judge Dredd*** (splash page to *The Graveyard Shift* part 4); block war!. *(£22-30)*

**95/299: DEREK THOMPSON/CHRIS WARNER - PREDATOR: BAD BLOOD #2 page 9** - A Predator in bestial mode! *(£40-60)*

## PREMIUMS & GIVEAWAYS

*NB: Unless otherwise stated, all items in this section are produced (by the publishers) as retailer incentives and, as such, can be considered limited editions*

**95/300: AIDS AWARENESS #1** [Chaos City Comics] - Produced by Chaos City Comics to benefit of AIDS charities; Simon Bisley cover; Includes art by Dave Gibbons, Liam Sharp, Bryan Hitch, John Higgins & Kev O'Neill. *Reserve Price (£6-10)*

**95/301:** ***EMBOSSED FOIL PLATINUM EDITION*** **- ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #1** [Dark Horse] - *Reserve Price (£15-20)*

**95/302: ANGELA** [Image] - *Reserve Price (£7-12)*

**95/303: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** [Marvel] - Pro Action giveaway; Green Goblin appearance. *(£7-12)*

**95/304:** ***SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION*** **- BRAVURA #0** [Malibu/Bravura] - Full cover hologram; inc ***Breed*** - Jim Starlin story/art; ***Power & Glory*** - Howard Chaykin story/art; ***Edge*** (text story) - illustrated by Gil Kane; ***Dreadstar*** - Ernie Colon art; ***Starslammers*** - Walt Simonson story/art. *Reserve Price (£16-22)*

**95/305:** ***LIMITED EDITION*** **- BREED II #1** [Malibu/Bravura] - Embossed, gold foil cover. *Reserve Price (£11-14)*

**95/306:** ***BLUE EMBOSSED EDITION*** **- CODENAME: STRYKEFORCE #1** [Image] - *Reserve Price **(£12-20)***

**95/307:** ***RED FOIL, EMBOSSED EDITION*** **- DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER #1** [Topps] - *Reserve Price **(£9-14)***

**95/308: FLOOD RELIEF** [Malibu/Ultraverse] - Coupon send-away in aid of the American Red Cross. *Reserve Price **(£7-10)***

**95/309: IMAGE #0** [Image] - Coupon sendaway; Includes ***Troll*** (Rob Liefeld/Art Thibert), ***Stormwatch*** (Jim Lee pencils), ***Savage Dragon*** (Erik Larsen), ***Stryker*** (Marc Silvestri), ***ShadowHawk*** (Jim Valentino/Chris Ivy) plus Todd McFarlane illo's. *Reserve Price **(£8-12)***

**95/310:** ***LIMITED EDITION*** **- THE MAN CALLED A-X #1** [Malibu/Bravura] - Embossed, gold foil cover. *Reserve Price **(£11-14)***

**95/311:** ***HOLOGRAPHIC LIMITED EDITION*** **- HARDCASE #1** [Malibu/Ultraverse] (sl cnr knk) - First full cover hologram (tie with ***Prime*** #1 & ***The Strangers*** #1]. *Reserve Price **(£9-12)***

**95/312:** ***PLATINUM EDITION*** **- LETHAL STRIKE #1** [London Night Studios] - *Reserve Price **(£10-15)***

**95/313:** ***BLUE COVER EDITION*** **- MARTHA WASHINGTON GOES TO WAR** [Dark Horse/Legend] Special edition produced by Chaos City Comics in aid of charity; signed by Dave Gibbons and limited to 500 copies; complete with certificate of authenticity & trading card. *Reserve Price **(£12-18)***

**95/314:** ***RED COVER EDITION*** **- MARTHA WASHINGTON GOES TO WAR #1** [Dark Horse/Legend] - Special edition produced by Chaos City Comics in aid of charity; signed by Dave Gibbons; limited to 100 copies (of which 50 were signed by Dave Gibbons & 50 by Frank Miller); complete with certificate of authenticity & trading card. *Reserve Price **(£20-30)***

**95/315:** ***HOLOGRAPHIC LIMITED EDITION*** **- MORTAL KOMBAT: BLOOD & THUNDER #1** [Malibu] - Full cover hologram. *Reserve Price **(£10-16)***

**95/316:** ***GLOW-IN-THE-DARK EDITION*** **- THE NOCTURNALS #1** [Malibu/Bravura] - *Reserve Price **(£12-18)***

**95/317:** ***PLATINUM EDITION*** **- OUTLAW NATION #1** [CreativeForce Productions/Boneyard Press] ***(£8-12)***

**95/318:** ***PLATINUM EDITION*** **- SACHS & VIOLENS #1** [Epic] - *Reserve Price **(£7-11)***

**95/319:** ***GOLD FOIL, EMBOSSED COVER*** **- THE SAVAGE DRAGON VS THE SAVAGE MEGATON MAN #1** [Image] - *Reserve Price **(£15-20)***

**95/320:** ***DUAL-FOIL COLLECTOR'S LIMITED EDITION*** **- STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE #1** [Malibu] - Enhanced gold & silver foil logo on flat black matte-finish cover. *Reserve Price **(£12-17)***

**95/321:** ***HOLOGRAPHIC LIMITED EDITION*** **- STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE - HEARTS AND MINDS #1** [Malibu] - Full cover hologram. *Reserve Price **(£13-18)***

**95/322: UNCANNY X-MEN** [Marvel] - American Football giveaway #1. ***(£7-10)***

**95/323: X-MEN** [Marvel] - Stridex giveaway #1; Magneto appearance; Scott McDaniel pencils. *Reserve Price **(£8-12)***

**95/324: X-MEN #11** [Marvel] - Silver ink edition; giveaway with ***X-Men Alert!*** game; Jim Lee pencils. ***(£10-15)***

**95/325: X-MEN COLLECTORS EDITION #2** [Marvel] - Pizza Hut giveaway; Wolverine & Jubilee vs Sauron & Sabretooth. *Reserve Price **(£8-12)***

**95/326: X-MEN COLLECTORS EDITION #3** [Marvel] - Pizza Hut giveaway; the Beast & Storm vs Magneto. *Reserve Price **(£8-12)***

**95/327: X-MEN PREMIUM EDITION #1** [Marvel] - Toys R' Us limited edition. ***(£7-10)***

**THE RICHARD BURTON COLLECTION**

Lots marked [TRBC] are from the 35 year collection of Richard Burton, one of the original leading lights of British Comics Fandom. ***Flights of Fantasy*** in association with its sister company, ***The Edge of Forever*** have acquired this massive and wide-ranging collection for sales both by auction and retail. For further details of this unique collection please contact us quoting ***The Richard Burton Collection***.

## MARVEL COMICS

**95/328: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #5** (g/hvy po bcvr/pence) - Doctor Doom appearance; Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£40-60)***

**ACCESS/MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, BARCLAYCARD/VISA & DINER'S CLUB** accepted. (Minimum £10.00)

**95/329: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6** (fn-/pence) - Intro the Lizard; Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(Reserve Price)***

**95/330: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #10** (fn+/pence) - Intro Big Man and the Enforcers (Fancy Dan, the Ox & Montana); Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£130-195)***

**95/331: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16** (fn/pence) - Daredevil vs Spider-Man (fourth appearance of Daredevil); Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£78-117)***

**95/332: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17** (fn-/pence) - Second appearance of the Green Goblin; Human Torch appearance; Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£100-150)***

**95/333: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #28** (fn) - Intro & origin of the Molten Man; Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£66-99)***

**95/334: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #50** (v sl rld spn/pence) - Intro the Kingpin; John Romita pencils. *Reserve Price **(£180-250)***

**95/335: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129** - Intro the Punisher & the Jackal. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£120-180)***

**95/336: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #148** (vfn+) - The Jackal revealed. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£15-20)***

**95/337: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #149** (vfn+) - Part 1 of the original clone story; origin of the Jackal. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£46-61)***

**95/338: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #150** (nm-) - Part 2 of the original clone story. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£29-38)***

**95/339: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238** (sl cnr knk/includes tattooz) - Intro the Hobgoblin. *Reserve Price **(£20-30)***

**95/340: AVENGERS #5** (fn/pence) - The Hulk quits the Avengers; Jack Kirby pencils. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£40-60)***

**95/341: AVENGERS #16** (fn+/*) - First major change in line-up: Hawkeye, Quicksilver & the Scarlet Witch join, Thor, Iron Man, Giant-Man & the Wasp leave; Jack Kirby layouts. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£26-39)***

**95/342: AVENGERS #18** (vfn-/*) - [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£20-30)***

**95/343: AVENGERS #110** (pence) - Original X-Men & Magneto appearance + **AVENGERS #111** - Original X-Men & Magneto appearance. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£10-16)***

**95/344: CAPTAIN AMERICA #100** (fn+/dt stmp on cvr/*) - Captain America's revival by the Avengers retold; Jack Kirby pencils; story continued from ***Tales of Suspense*** #99. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£91-136)***

**95/345: CAPTAIN AMERICA #110** (*) - Captain America vs the Hulk; Rick Jones becomes Captain America's partner; intro the Viper; Jim Steranko story/pencils. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£15-22)***

**95/346: CAPTAIN AMERICA #111** (vfn-/sl mkd bcvr/*) - "Death" of Steve Rogers; Jim Steranko story/pencils. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£14-21)***

**95/347: CAPTAIN AMERICA #113** (vfn-) - Captain America's funeral; Jim Steranko story/pencils. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£16-24)***

**95/348: CAPTAIN AMERICA #117** (fn+) - Intro the Falcon; Gene Colan pencils. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£13-19)***

**95/349: THE CAT - COMPLETE 4 ISSUE MINI SERIES: #1** (nm-) - Intro & origin of the Cat (later to become Tigra); Wally Wood inks; **#2** (vfn+) - The Owl appearance; **#3** - Bill Everett inks; **#4** (nm-) - Jim Starlin/Alan Weiss art; includes ***Marvel Girl*** story reprinted from ***[Uncanny] X-Men*** #57. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£12-16)***

**95/350: CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #10** (vfn+) - Includes first appearance of Robert E. Howard's King Kull - Berni Wrightson art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£8-11)***

**95/351: 6 x CREATURES ON THE LOOSE - COMPLETE GULLIVAR JONES, WARRIOR OF MARS SERIES - #16** - Includes Gil/Kane/Bill Everett art; **#17** (vfn+) - Includes Gil Kane pencils; **#18** (vfn+); **#19** (sl cnr knk) - Includes Wayne Boring/Jim Mooney/Gil Kane art; **#20** (vfn+) - Includes Gray Morrow art; **#21** (vfn+) - Gray Morrow art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£5-8)***

**95/352: DAREDEVIL #1** (fn-/pence) - Intro & origin of Daredevil; intro Foggy Nelson & Karen Page; Bill Everett art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£400-600)***

**95/353: DAREDEVIL #3** (fn/p) - Intro & origin of the Owl. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£66-99)***

**95/354: DAREDEVIL #8** (fn+/*) - Intro & origin of Stiltman; Wally Wood art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£29-43)***

**95/355: DAREDEVIL #9** (fn+/pence) - Wally Wood layouts. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£29-43)***

**95/356: DAREDEVIL #18** (fn/pence) - Intro & origin of the Gladiator; John Romita pencils. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£12-18)***

**95/357: DAREDEVIL - COMPLETE FALL FROM GRACE STORY ARC - #319** - Prologue; Silver Sable appearance; **#320** - Chapter 1; Silver Sable appearance; **#321** - Chapter 2; glow-in-the dark cover; **#322** - Chapter 3; **#323** - Chapter 4; Venom appearance; **#324** - Chapter 5; Morbius appearance; **#325** - Finale. *Reserve Price **(£22-35)***

**95/358: THE DEFENDERS #1** (vfn+) - The Hulk, Doctor Strange & the Sub-Mariner team-up. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£21-28)***

**95/359: FANTASTIC FOUR #112** (pence) - Hulk vs the Thing. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£11-17)***

**95/360: GIANT-SIZE SUPER-HEROES FEATURING SPIDER-MAN #1** (vfn-/sl sld bcvr) - Spider-Man vs Man-Wolf; Morbius appearance; Gil Kane pencils; includes reprint from ***Amazing Spider-Man Annual*** #1 - Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **£10-15)***

**95/361: [LUKE CAGE] HERO FOR HIRE #1** (vfn) - Intro & origin of Luke Cage. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£11-15)***

**95/362: INCREDIBLE HULK #109** (vfn-/*) - Ka-Zar appearance; John Severin inks. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£8-13)***

**95/363: 3 x INCREDIBLE HULK - #119** (pence); **#120** (pence): **#121** (pence). [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£12-21)***

**95/364: MARVEL SPOTLIGHT [1971] #5** (fn+) - Intro & origin of the first super-hero Ghost Rider; Mike Ploog art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£24-32)***

**95/365: NEW MUTANTS #86** - Intro Cable (last page teaser); the Vulture appearance; Acts of Vengeance crossover; Rob Liefeld pencils + **NEW MUTANTS #87** - First full appearance of Cable; Rob Liefeld pencils. *Reserve Price **((£15-23)***

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**95/368: SGT FURY #10** (vfn+/pence) - Intro Captain Savage. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£20-27)***

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**95/370: STRANGE TALES [1951 #116** (vfn/pence) - Includes ***Human Torch*** vs the Thing; Puppet Master appearance; includes ***Doctor Strange*** - Intro Nightmare; Steve Ditko art. [TRBC] *Reserve Price **(£28-37)***

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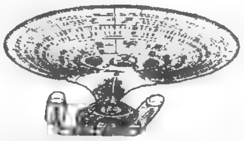

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# MEDIAFILE

*Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product*

### *Surfing the Bat-wave*

THE British tabloids have been surfing low on the *Batman Forever* tide, and the **Daily Star** has firmly fixed in what is advisedly called its brain that the film is a peon to homosexual love.

In the same way that **Time Out's** reviewer fantasised about TV's *New Adventures of Superman* having a gay sub-text (see **Comics International** passim), the **Star** — never before noted for its rights campaigning credentials — used comments from Outrage! (the gay lobby group) to launch into an unrestrained pun-fest.

"Buttman and Throbbin — Gays claim caped duo are a pair of pansies!" shrieked Graham Johnson's report, next to the **Star's** tits-shot on page three.

According to Johnson ("Kerpoof! Does Batman fancy Robin's Zip more than his Zap?"), Outrage! has "chosen the release of the new movie *Batman Forever* to turn the screw on the Pansy Pair. And they reveal" — Johnson continued relentlessly — "that Robin was called Boy Wonder ... because he was always thinking: I wonder if I'm queer?"

Outrage! spokesman Dave Allison told Johnson: "Batman and Robin are the first gay crimefighters ... Now it's time that they came out the Bat Cave and told the world: We're gay and we're proud ..."

Strange, readers might think, that Fleet Street's notoriously right-wing hang 'em and flog 'em tabloid should be taking quotes from gay campaigners — who they are usually more likely to abuse. Outrage! is not likely to give interviews to such a paper unless it serves its purpose, as proved by its recent highly effective campaign to "out" Church of England bishops.

But one thing's for sure, Time Warner didn't have Batman and Robin's investiture as British gay icons in mind when they produced *Batman Forever*.

### *Go West, young man*

STILL surfing the Bat-wave, that other pillar of the liberal establishment, **The Sun**, ran an interview with Sixties TV Batman Adam West as an insert in Steve (lovely man) Wright's film column (14.7.'95).

Under the headline: "Old Bat Adam gives thumbs up to new duo", West noted with some relief that in *Batman Forever*: "Wayne Manor no longer sports those terrible spires ... Batman now seems to enjoy being a superhero. Whether it's giving a thumbs-up to Commissioner Gordon or simply a warm smile, this is a kinder, gentler Caped Crusader."

There you go — Batman fully reconstructed in all his kitsch, Sixties' glory. All the effort and angst it cost creators, publishers, directors and producers over the last 10 years to give the character some bottom (as it were), and in one fell swoop, *Batman Forever* turned him back into a silly arse.

### *Dollars don't argue*

*Batman Forever* scored the highest opening weekend figures in the United States this summer, taking $52.7 million.

**The Hollywood Reporter** (1.8.'95) placed the film in the top five in Australia (1), Japan (3), Brazil (1), South Africa (5), France (1), Spain (6), Sweden (4), Hong Kong (7) and UK (2). But who knows, the way studios do their accounts these days, the film could *still* come out in the red...

### *Wiacek wrongfooted*

"HOLY BANKROLL!", "Cash in on Barbie and Batmania", whooped the **Sunday Express** this month, in its *Personal Finance* section (30.7.'95).

Catching on a millennium or two late, as ever, the **Express** regurgitated the usual nonsense about how much readers' old comics could be worth. But David Andrews, whose byline was attached to the feature, started out with an odd premise: "*Batman Forever* may have been panned by the critics, but the new comic-strip hero movie has once again proved a monster hit at the box office." Where did Andrews get the idea of the film being panned by the critics? Surely not from "Forbidden Planet's expert Jan Wiacek", who was seemingly responsible for the astoundingly *correct* information in the piece...

### *Drone, mutter, cypher*

"I WAS a teenage Dredd head", was the wretched headline on an extraordinary piece presented as a film preview in the **Independent on Sunday** (16.7.'95). Nicholas Barber was lucky enough to get this one, and apparently did so without having seen the film.

"Former contributor" Barber (whose "own teenage **2000AD** writings comprised a dozen *Tales of the Unexpected*-type one-offs,") feebly pushed off into a lengthy — and sadly incredibly anal — feature religiously itemising minutiae about Judge Dredd's history in comics.

Finally, in the last thousand words or so, Barber started to talk about the film. "Alan Grant — whom I spoke to the day after he had seen the film..." — there it is, the giveaway that Barber wasn't at the screening — "[he said]... "My opinions of it are so low that they are unprintable. It's hard to believe they employed a script writer ... it's often said, and I'm afraid it's true, that Americans don't have much sense of irony. They read all those hundreds of ironic stories we wrote and they thought we were doing it for real. It's my greatest fear realised: a film supporting a political ideology that I find abhorrent ... its values are very, very suspect"."

But looking back at all those "hundreds of ironic stories", the political *ambivalence* of the character has been Dredd's ident-tag for years. It makes sense. If you have a morally questionable character but find the less morally sound aspects sell, you make him difficult to pin down.

Grant, of course, could never be accused of such manipulation — and neither could **2000AD**. But perhaps there was an unconscious blurring of the character's definition over the years, a desire not to reveal quite who he was. After all, it's standard comic-book practice — who really knows what Bruce Wayne is like? Or which party Clarke Kent votes for? They're all moveable feasts.

### *Cain unmanned*

DEAN Cain, of **The New Adventures of Superman**, has been implanted as a sex symbol in the British female psyche.

But it's the cuddly side of Cain that most appeals: sly new **Eva**, an IPC Magazines publication, ran a featurette this month about Cain's fear of heights.

"Embarrassing! Guess what Superman is scared to do?" ran the **Eva** cover-line (2.8.'95). Inside, Cain revealed that he's "also scared of crowds and likes to hide away at his LA home with his girlfriend...

"We never go to big dos or anything like that," he says. "We go to the movies or stay home"."

As **Eva** cleverly captioned Cain: "Man of Steel, bag of nerves". And he didn't learn those stay-at-home ways from Pamela Anderson, *Baywatch* and *Barb Wire*'s made-in-Hollywood sex goddess — from whom he recently split.

### *Unexpected obits*

GEORGE S. Carragonne, editor-in-chief of New York-based **Penthouse Comix** seemed determined to make his mark after being sacked amid rumoured disputes about the source of his rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

Having overtly failed to be famous, Carragonne decided to go for the posthumous option and so threw himself out of the Marriott Hotel in Times Square.

The **Los Angeles Times** reported (22.7.'95) that Carragonne entered the hotel and, on being assured that it was the tallest building in the area, got in the lift to the 45th floor and threw himself off.

If he hoped to make any impact on the industry with this gesture, Carragonne was mistaken. His suicide was the butt of cruel jokes the following week at the San Diego ComicCon. The moral? Never assume you will be taken more seriously dead than alive.

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# FRAME TO FRAME

*The Edge of Forever's Mike Conroy overviews the film and television industry's on-off love affair with comics characters*

## *Dredd judged*

Never having been a Judge Dredd fan, I cannot say how the purists will react to Sylvester Stallone's interpretation of the character. But I believe it will get a big thumbs up from moviegoers in general!

Director Danny Cannon has used his mega-budget to the full and provided us with a cinematic feast of special effects, the equal of almost anything seen on the big screen in the Nineties.

The longshots of Mega-City are particularly inspiring, while the street settings are reminiscent of Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* but packed with even more going on... impossible as that may seem.

Unfortunately, that is where the comparisons with *Blade Runner* end. Where the earlier movie had considerable substance, *Judge Dredd* is somewhat lacking. It has a plot, in fact it has multiple **2000AD** plots crammed in, but this cinematic adaptation of the comic's major asset comes across as little more than an action/adventure romp with science fiction trappings; at the same time functioning as another macho starring role for Stallone.

If *Judge Dredd* does bear any real resemblance to an earlier movie, it is to Stallone's prior futuristic outing in *Demolition Man*. The storylines bear an uncanny resemblance in that, not only are they both set in the world of futuristic policing, but the raison d'étre for Stallone's character in both movies is simply to thwart a villain who is out to take over the city. The similarities continue as both movies introduce us to the founders of the new orders and explain their motives for establishing them. In fact, and I am not going to issue any spoiler warnings, they both climax in spectacularly similar fashion and close on bizarrely identical notes!

The comparisons continue with Diane Lane's Judge Hershey paralleling in many ways *Demolition Man*'s character of Lenina Huxley, played by Sandra Bullock.

*Judge Dredd* is, however, a much bleaker film than *Demolition Man* although like that earlier movie (and many other action/adventure movies) it has its fair share of humour. In *Demolition Man*, the mirth mainly came from the attempts of John (Stallone) Spartan to cope with the changes to society during the 36 years he spent in cryogenic prison as well as from his new law-enforcing colleagues' reactions to the "barbarian" from the past.

In *Judge Dredd*, most of the comedy comes from Rob Schneider in his role as Dredd's (for want of a better word) "sidekick", Fergie (bearing no resemblance to the comic character Fergie beyond name).

Like so many other comedic foils in otherwise "serious" films, Fergie can be quite tedious at times but, overall, the humour adds to the enjoyment. At least we got Fergie and not Walter the Wobot!

Having already stated that I'm not a Dredd fan, I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed Stallone's interpretation of the character. At times he seemed uncannily close to the original version, although there were also occasions when he came dangerously close to parody.

## *Stallone as Dredd*

As Rico, Dredd's evil clone twin, Armand Assante brings a controlled mania to the role. Full of emotion, spitting malevolence at every turn, he is perfect as the "darker side" of Dredd. Although Stallone's portrayal of Dredd as the emotionless lawman is almost spot on, Assante's depiction of Rico serves to enhance and underscore Dredd's lack of feelings.

Incidentally, before I saw the movie, I had my doubts as to the wisdom of casting Stallone and Assante as twins (albeit clones) but, believe me, it works!

Worthy of an honourable mention is the show-stealing character that Rico takes on as his bodyguard-enforcer. Totally produced via special effects, the ABC Warrior robot is a joy to behold unless, of course, you are about to be on the receiving end of its extensive arsenal!

I do have minor quibbles about the film, but the only one worth mentioning is in the opening credits sequence...

Why, oh why, did they use an ever-changing montage of comic book covers as the background to the credits? It gives a non-comics (particularly American) audience a confusing message. If, for reasons that are beyond me, the producers felt it necessary to make such early reference to Dredd's comic book origins, why did they use (mainly) Eagle and Quality **Judge Dredd** reprints? **2000AD** was represented, but neither of DC's (very recently cancelled) Judge Dredd titles nor (more pertinently) **Judge Dredd: The Megazine** were featured at all!

I have heard that some **2000AD** creators were unhappy that so much of the Dredd canon was "thrown away" in this movie. But for me, the passing inclusion of such Dredd landmarks as Block Wars, the Cursed Earth and the Angel Gang were enjoyable diversions on the way to the big climax.

As a movie, *Judge Dredd* holds no surprises. It is unoriginal and packed with clichés but still is spectacular and highly entertaining. Overall, if I was scoring it, *Judge Dredd* would rate 8 out of 10.

It will never win any Academy Awards (except, maybe, in the special effects category) and will be a severe disappointment to anyone looking for in-depth characterisation or complex storytelling, but Stallone fans and action/adventure lovers will adore it.

Sticking my neck out, I would be surprised if the Stallone factor did not put *Judge Dredd* above *Batman Forever* at the European box office when the summer has run its course.

Unfortunately, movie mogul Charlie Lippincott did tell our San Diego-visiting editor during the Comics Convention last week that US box office has been such a disappointment there is no chance of Stallone wanting to go ahead with the sequel, not wishing to be associated with a domestic flop.

## Coming attractions

Many magazines carry listings of genre movies currently at some stage of production. However, quite often they can include speculative entries. Our listing, while not as all-encompassing as some others, only details movies that we have been able to confirm from more than one source. We are investigating those "missing" movies and will include them only when we can verify them.

It is worth remembering that many producers take up options on comic book concepts but only a small percentage make it into production and of those that are released, many can take years to reach the screen. For example, *Judge Dredd* took 15 years!

***⇒ Indicates a new entry.***

### IN PRODUCTION

*THE ADVENTURES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN* - DC's Dark Knight Detective and the Boy Wonder in animated action. *Executive Producers*: Jean MacCurdy & Tom Ruegger. *Producers*: Alan Burnett, Eric Radomski, Bruce Timm & Paul Dini. Warner Bros Animation.

*BARB WIRE* - Based on the Dark Horse character. *Cast*: Pamela Anderson, Temuera Morrison, Jack Noseworthy & Victoria Rowell. *Executive Producer*: Steve Golin. *Producers*: Mike Richardson, Todd Moyer & Brad Wyman. *Director*: Adam Rifkin. *Screenplay*: Chuck Pfarrar & Adam Rifkin. Polygram Filmed Entertainment-Propeganda Films-Dark Horse Entertainment. Shooting in Los Angeles started 23rd May 1995.

*FIST OF THE NORTHSTAR* - Based on the manga series by Buronson & Tetsuo Hara; already adapted in to an anime movie. *Director*: Tony Randal. *Cast*: Gary Daniels, Costas Mandylor, Chris Penn, Isako Washio & Melvyn van Peebles. Zeta Entertainment.

*THE MASK* - An animated series featuring the eponymous "hero" from Dark Horse. *Executive Producers*: Phil Roman, Tom Griffin, Joe Bacal, C.J. Kettler, Mike Richardson & Bob Friedman. *Producers*: Gary Hartle & Duane Capizzi. *Story Editor*: Duane Cappizzi. Film Roman Inc.

*PHANTOM 2040* - animated adventures of the futuristic descendant of Lee Falk's creation. *Executive Producers*: David J. Corbett, William E. Miller & Jeffrey Schon. *Supervising Producer*: Mary Corbett. *Associate Producer*: Mary K Moore. *Director*: Stu Rosen. *Story Editors*: Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens. Hearst Animation Productions.

*SPIDER-MAN* - Marvel's first solo super-hero in animated action. *Executive Producers*: Avi Arad, Stan Lee & Bill Kerstetter. *Supervising Producer*: Bob Richardson. *Producer*: John Semper. *Story Editor*: John Semper. Marvel Films Animation.

*TALES FROM THE CRYPT: BORDELLO OF BLOOD* - Inspired by the EC comic of the same name. *Cast*: Dennis Miller, Erika Elenkia, Angie Everhart, Chris Sarandon, Corey Feldman & Aubrey Morris. *Executive Producers*: Richard Donner, David Giler, Walter Hill, Joel Silver & Robert Zemeckis. *Producers*: Gilbert Adler & A.L. Katz. *Director*: Gilbert Adler. *Screenplay*: Bob Gale, Robert Zemeckis, A. L. Katz & Gilbert Adler. New City Productions Inc. Shooting in Vancouver, British Columbia started 12th May 1995.

*TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES* - Animated series based on the characters created by Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird. *Executive Producer*: Fred Wolf. *Producer*: Kara Vallow. *Director*: Bill Wolf. *Executive Story Editor*: David Wise. Fred Wolf Films Inc.

*THE TICK* - New England Comics' spoof super-hero, the creation of Ben Edlund, in an animated series. *Executive Producers*: Joe Bacal, Tom Griffin & C.J. Kettner. *Producers*: Hank Tucker & Ben Edlund. *Writers*: Ben Edlund & Richard Liebmann Smith. *Story Editor*: Richard Liebmann Smith. Graz Entertainment Inc./The Suchin Company.

*ULTRAFORCE* - Animated series featuring characters from the Malibu Ultraverse title. *Executive Producers*: Andy Heyward & Robby London. *Producer*: Chuck Patton. *Story Editor*: Martha Moran. DIC Entertainment LP.

*X-MEN* - Animated Marvel mutant mayhem. *Executive Producers*: Stan Lee, Avi Arad & Joseph Calamari. *Supervising Producer*: Will Meugniot. *Producer*: Frank Squillace. Saban Entertainment.

### IN PRE-PRODUCTION

*ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA* - Based on the Entity Comics character. *Executive Producer*: Mark Freeman. *Producer*: Phillippe Diaz. *Director*: Brian Yuzna. *Screenplay*: Chris Solimine. Sceneries Entertainment Corp. Shooting in Los Angeles and Arizona started June 1995.

### IN PREPARATION

*MARS ATTACKS* - Based on the trading cards and Topps comic. *Producers*: Tim Burton & Laurie Parker. *Director*: Tim Burton. *Screenplay*: Jonathan Gems. Warner Bros. Shooting in LA and Washington from 14/8/95.

*MEN IN BLACK* - Based on the series created by Lowell Cunningham and published by Aircel Comics. *Producers*: Steven Spielberg, Walter Parkes & Laurie MacDonald. *Director*: Barry Sonnenfeld. *Cast*: Tommy Lee Jones. Columbia Pictures.

### IN DEVELOPMENT

*CATWOMAN* - Based on the DC Comics character featured in *Batman Returns*. *Director*: Tim Burton. *Screenplay*: Dan Waters. Michelle Pfeiffer is expected to star. Warner Bros.

*CRYING FREEMAN* - Based on the character created by Kazuo Koike & Ryoichi Ikegami. *Producers*: Samuel Hadida & Brian Yuzna. *Director*: Christopher Gan. *Cast*: Mark Dacascos & Julie Condra Douglas. August Entertainment.

*FANTASTIC FOUR* - The reason Roger Corman's Concorde Films version of the Fantastic Four was shelved; based on the Marvel characters. *Director*: Chris Colombus. 20th Century-Fox.

*FLASH GORDON* - Yet another movie based on the classic newspaper strip character who debuted in 1934. *Producers*: Ben Myron & David Halpern. *Screenplay*: David S. Goyer.

*JONNY QUEST* - Doug Wildey's character — created as a Hanna-Barbera cartoon which led to a series of comics from Comico — in a live action movie. *Co-Producer*: Lauren Shuler-Donner. *Screenplay*: Fred Dekker. Turner Pictures.

*LUKE CAGE* - Marvel's "hero for hire", originally planned to star OJ Simpson. *Executive Producer*: Bradford Smith. *Producer*: Ed Pressman. *Director*: John Singleton. *Screenplay*: Joe Doughrity.

*MORTAL KOMBAT* - Based on the arcade games which inspired the series from Mailbu. *Producer*: Larry Kasanoff. *Director*: Paul Anderson. *Screenplay*: Kevin Dronney. *Cast*: Christopher Lambert, Linden Ashby, Talisa Soto, Robin Shou, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa & Kathleen McClellan. New Line.

*THE PHANTOM* - Lee Falk's "Ghost Who Walks" comes to the movies for the second time. *Executive Producers*: Graham Burke, Greg Coote, Peter Sjoquist & Bruce Sherlock. *Producers*: Robert Evans & Mike Finnell. *Director*: Joe Dante. *Screenplay*: Jeffrey Boam. *Cast*: Billy Zane & Cameron Diaz. Robert Evans Company/Village Roadshow Pictures.

*PLASTIC MAN* - Jack Cole's stretchable sleuth making his movie debut. *Director*: Bryan Spicer. *Screenplay*: Larry Wilson. Amblin Entertainment.

*SPIDER-MAN* - Maybe this time a Marvel character will be successfully transferred to the big screen! *Producer-Director-Screenplay*: James Cameron. Lightstorm Entertainment-Carolco Pictures. [Doubts raised with Carolco now believed to be bankrupt]

*SUPERMAN REBORN* - Even before his unfortunate accident, Christopher Reeve had dismissed talk of repeating his role for a fifth time but, for all that, this is effectively *Superman 5*. *Producer*: Jon Peters. *Screenplay*: Jonathan Lemkin. Warner Bros.

*V FOR VENDETTA* - Based on the Alan Moore/David Lloyd/Dez Skinn character first seen in **Warrior**. *Producer*: Joel Silver.

## PUBLISHER index

*IN ANSWER to continual requests for details concerning comics publishers, the **Comics International** Publisher's Index covers all major newsstand and direct sale mainstream comics publishers. For information about small press titles, readers are refered to the Announcements section of our classified listings at the end of each issue.*

### US PUBLISHERS

*While not exhaustive, the following are the major American comics publishers:*

- **ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS**, 325 Fayette Ave., Mamaroneck, NY 10543 (humour titles) 001 914 381 5155
- **AARDVARK-VANAHEIM**, PO Box 1674 Station C, Kitchner, Ontario N2G 4R2 Canada. (Cerebus)
- **AC COMICS**, PO Box 1216, Longwood, Fl 32752 (adventure & western titles)
- **BONGO ENTERTAINMENT** 1999 Avè of the Stars, Los Angeles, Ca 90607 (Simpsons-related humour titles) 001 310 788 1367
- **BROADWAY COMICS**, 1285 Ave of the Americas, 35th Floor, NY, NY 10016 (adventure) 001 212 554 4588
- **CALIBER PRESS**, 621B South Main St., Plymouth, Mich 48170 (b&w adventure titles) 001 313 455 3599
- **DARK HORSE COMICS**, 10956 S. E. Main St., Milwaukie, Or 97222 (adventure, licensed & manga) 001 503 652 8815

NEW **DC COMICS** *now at* 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019 (adventure & licensed, humour plus Vertigo & Paradox Press imprints) 001 212 636 5400

- **DISNEY COMICS**, 500 S Buena Vista St, Burbank, Ca 91521 (humour titles) 001 818 507 5739
- **DRAWN & QUARTERLY**, 5550 Jeanne Mance St #16, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2V 4K6 (b&w biog)
- **FANTAGRAPHIC BOOKS**, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, Wa 98115 (b&w adventure, biog & Eros adult titles) 001 206 524 1967
- **GLADSTONE PUBLISHING**, Box 2079, Prescott, Ariz 86302 (humour, licensed) 001 602 776 1300
- **HARVEY COMICS Entertainments**, 100 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, Ca 91401 (humour titles) 001 310 451 3377
- **HEAVY METAL**, 584 Broadway, Suite 608, New York, NY 10012 (adult fantasy)
- **IMAGE COMICS**, 2400 E Katella Ave, Suite 1065, Anaheim, Ca 92806 001 714 6344644
- **KITCHEN SINK PRESS**, 320 Riverside Drive, Northampton, Mass 01060 (adventure, humour & licensed, inc Tundra) 001 413 586 9525
- **LAST GASP**, 777 Florida, San Francisco, Ca 94110 (underground) 001 415 824 6636
- **MALIBU COMICS Entertainment**, 26707 W. Agoura Rd., Calabasas, Ca 91302 (adventure, licensed + Bravura titles) 001 818 878 7400
- **MARVEL Entertainment Group**, 387 Park Ave S, New York, NY 10016 (adventure, some humour & licensed) 001 212 696 0808
- **MILESTONE MEDIA**, 119 West 23rd St., Suite 409, New York, NY 10011 (adventure titles) 001 212 522 7150
- **MIRAGE PUBLICATIONS**, PO Box 486, Northampton, Ma 01061 (humour)
- **NBM PUBLICATIONS**, 185 Madison Ave, Suite 1502, New York, NY 10016 (adult fantasy graphic novels)
- **NOW COMICS**, 60 Revere Drive, Northbrook, Ill 60062 (licensed adventure & humour titles) 001 708 205 2950
- **REBEL STUDIOS**, 4716 Judy Court, Sacramento, Ca 95841. (adventure b&w titles) 001 916 443 7629
- **RIP OFF PRESS**, PO Box 4686, Auburn, Ca 95604 (underground comix)
- **SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS**, 979 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose, Ca 95128 (fantasy b&w) 001 408 279 0451
- **TEKNO COMIX**, 2255 Glades Road, Suite 237W, Boca Raton, Fl 33431-7383 (s-f/fantasy comics) 001 407 998 800
- **TOPPS COMICS**, 254 36th St., Brooklyn, NY 11232 (adventure titles)
- **VALIANT/VOYAGER Communications**, 275 7th Ave, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10001 (adventure) 001 212 366 4900
- **VIZ COMICS**, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, Ca 94107 (translated manga titles)
- **WaRP GRAPHICS**, 43 Haight Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 (Elquest titles) 001 914 473 9277

### UK PUBLISHERS

*While not exhaustive, the following are the major UK comics and graphic novel publishers:*

- **BOXTREE BOOKS**, 2nd Floor, Broadwall House, 21 Broadwall, London SE1 (licensed graphic novels) 0171 928 9696
- **DC THOMSON**, Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (humour & girls' titles)
- **DEADLINE Publications**, 36 Leroy Street, London SE1 4SR (**Deadline** anthology) 0171 232 2840
- **FANNY**, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (women's comics) 0181 969 2945
- **FLEETWAY EDITIONS**, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU (adventure, humour, licensed) 0171 344 6400
- **JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING**, The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane, Fulham, London SW6 (Viz) 0171 381 6007
- **KNOCKABOUT COMICS**, 10 Acklam Rd, London W10 5QZ (humour & underground comix, graphic novels) 0181 969 2945
- **MANDARIN BOOKS**, Reed Consumer Books, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (licensed grahic novels) 0171 581 9393
- **MANGA PUBLISHING**, 40 St Peter's Rd, London W6 9BD (licensed titles) 0181 748 9000
- **MARVEL COMICS (UK)**, Arundel House, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX (humour, adventure, licensed) 0171 208 4500
- **THE REDAN COMPANY**, Appleton House, 139 King Street, London W6 9JG (pre-school humour titles) 0181 563 1563
- **SAVOY BOOKS**, 279 Deansgate, Manchester M3 4EW (adult fantasy titles) 0161 833 2664
- **TITAN BOOKS**, 42-44 Dolben Street, London SE1 OUP (licensed graphic novels) 0171 620 0200
- **VICTOR GOLLANCZ**, Cassell PLC, Wellington House, 125 Strand, London WC2R 0BB (original graphic novels) 0171 420 5555

# Universal Comics

**Marvel**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amazing Fantasy | #7 | G | £27 |
| | #8 | F | £65 |
| | #9 | VF | £80 |
| | #12 | VF | £80 |
| | #13 | VF+ | £90 |
| | #14 | VF+ | £90 |
| | #15 | VF+ | £3200 |
| Amazing Spider-Man | #1 | VF+/NM- | £3500 |
| | #2 | VF+/NM- | £900 |
| | #4 | F | £275 |
| | #5 | NM- | £500 |
| | #6 | VF+/NM- | £470 |
| | #7 | NM- | £300 |
| | #9 | NM- | £350 |
| | #11 | F | £75 |
| | #12 | VF | £150 |
| | #13 | VF | £190 |
| | #21 | NM- | £85 |
| | #22 | VF+ | £70 |
| | #23 | VF | £70 |
| | #24 | VF+ | £70 |
| | #25 | NM- | £100 |
| | #26 | F | £50 |
| | #27 | F | £45 |
| | #29 | NM | £80 |
| | #30 | VF+ | £27 |
| | #32 | F | £20 |
| | #34 | Good | £10 |
| Amazing Spider-Man Annual | #2 | VF | £70 |
| Avengers | #2 | F+ | £100 |
| | #4 | VF+ | £290 |
| | #5 | VF+ | £45 |
| | #6 | NM- | £75 |
| Daredevil | #1 | NM- | £1000 |
| | #2 | VF | £150 |
| | #6 | VF | £35 |
| | #7 | F | £30 |
| | #8 | NM | £50 |
| | #9 | NM | £50 |
| Fantastic Four | #2 | VG | £275 |
| | #3 | VF+/NM- | £700 |
| | #4 | VF+ | £750 |
| | #5 | F | £750 |
| | #6 | NM- | £500 |
| | #8 | NM | £250 |
| | #10 | VF | £235 |
| | #11 | VF | £250 |
| | #12 | VF | £270 |
| | #13 | F | £140 |
| | #14 | VF+/NM- | £150 |
| | #15 | VF+ | £150 |
| | #16 | VF+ | £125 |
| | #18 | VF+ | £110 |
| | #19 | VF+ | £110 |
| | #20 | F | £80 |
| | #22 | VF+ | £20 |
| | #24 | VF+ | £50 |
| | #25 | VF+ | £170 |
| | #26 | VG | £45 |
| | #27 | VF+/NM- | £70 |
| | #28 | NM- | £90 |
| | #29 | F | £22 |
| | #30 | VF+ | £45 |
| | #33 | VF | £40 |
| | #34 | VF | £22 |
| | #35 | VF+ | £30 |
| | #36 | VF+ | £30 |
| | #37 | VF+ | £22 |
| | #38 | F+ | £20 |
| | #40 | VG | £15 |
| | #42 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #43 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #44 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #46 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #47 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #48 | VF+ | £325 |
| | #49 | VF+ | £60 |
| | #50 | VF+ | £65 |
| Journey Into Mystery | #71 | VG+ | £15 |
| | #72 | VF+ | £32 |
| | #74 | F | £20 |
| | #78 | NM- | £70 |
| | #79 | VF+ | £30 |
| | #80 | VF | £30 |
| | #81 | NM- | £40 |
| | #82 | NM- | £40 |
| | #88 | VF+ | £90 |
| | #89 | NM- | £110 |
| | #91 | VF+ | £45 |
| | #96 | VF+ | £45 |
| | #97 | NM- | £80 |
| | #98 | NM- | £50 |
| | #102 | VF | £30 |
| Tales To Astonish | #23 | G | £15 |
| | #24 | G | £15 |
| | #26 | VF+ | £40 |
| | #27 | VF | £1300 |
| | #28 | F | £40 |
| | #38 | NM- | £160 |
| | #39 | VF+ | £150 |
| | #42 | NM- | £100 |
| | #43 | NM- | £100 |
| Hulk | #1 | VF+ | £2500 |
| | #2 | NM | £900 |
| | #3 | F | £500 |
| | #4 | VF | £400 |
| | #5 | VF | £300 |
| | #6 | NM- | £650 |
| Hulk Set 1-6 | | | £3950 |
| X-Men | #1 | F- | £650 |
| | #2 | VG | £175 |
| | #3 | VG+ | £100 |
| | #4 | F- | £100 |
| | #5 | F | £40 |
| | #6 | NM- | £150 |

**DC**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aquaman | #1 | VG+ | £45 |
| | #2 | VF | £60 |
| | #3 | VF+ | £40 |
| | #4 | VF+ | £38 |
| | #5 | VF+ | £38 |
| | #6 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #7 | NM- | £37 |
| Showcase | #33 | VG | £45 |
| | #34 | F+ | £225 |
| | #35 | F+ | £150 |
| | #36 | F | £125 |
| | #37 | F | £120 |
| | #38 | VF+ | £175 |
| | #40 | VF+ | £140 |
| | #42 | F | £25 |
| | #43 | VF | £150 |
| | #44 | VF | £30 |
| | #46 | VF+ | £25 |
| | #47 | VF+ | £30 |
| | #48 | F | £7 |
| | #49 | F | £7 |
| | #50 | VF | £17 |
| | #51 | VF | £17 |
| | #52 | F | £6 |
| | #53 | VF+ | £18 |
| | #54 | VF+ | £18 |
| | #56 | VF+ | £20 |
| JLA | #7 | VF+ | £80 |
| | #8 | VF+ | £80 |
| | #9 | VF+ | £130 |
| | #11 | VF+ | £80 |
| | #12 | VF+ | £70 |
| | #14 | VF+/NM- | £75 |
| | #15 | NM- | £80 |
| | #16 | VF+ | £55 |
| | #19 | NM- | £65 |
| | #20 | NM- | £65 |
| | #28 | VF+ | £30 |
| | #31 | VF+ | £22 |
| | #33 | NM- | £20 |

Long Run on Atom, Metal Men and Green Lantern.Good Selection of Tales to Astonish and Tales of Suspense available, Strange Tales, Sgt. Fury + Howling Commandos

## *CREDIT CARD HOTLINE:* 0181 814 0557

Universal Comics
Staines
16 London Road
Staines
Tel: 01784 460300

Universal Comics
Hounslow
5 Bell Parade
Bell Road
Hounslow
Tel: 0181 814 0557

Universal Comics
Slough
Unit 27A
Village Shopping Centre
Slough
Tel: 01753 571799

# RETAIL index

**Key to abbreviations used**

| | |
|---|---|
| **imp** | = air imported new issues |
| **back** | = back issues stocked |
| **s-p** | = small press & fanzines |
| **merch** | = videos, trading cards, T-shirts, posters, models, etc |
| **ind** | = US independent comics (non-newsstand & manga) |
| **Brit** | = British comics & albums |
| **frgn** | = foreign language comics |
| **u/g** | = underground comics |
| **gn** | = graphic novels & trade paperback editions |
| **STO** | = standing order service, (new comics reserved) |
| **RPG** | = role playing games |

## CENTRAL LONDON

**Acme Comic Shop**, 391 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8LQ (near Brixton tube) Mon-Thur 10-6; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, wants lists welcomed) 0171-274 6697

**Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. Mon-Thur 10.00-5.45, Fri 10.00-6.30; Sat 9.30-6.00 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0171-924 3609

**Book and Comic Exchange**, 14 Pembridge Rd, London W11. Mon-Sun 10-8 (back, ind, Brit, merch, frgn, u/g, gn, RPG, buy & exchange all comics) 0171 229 8420

**Comic Showcase**, 76 Neal St, London WC2. Mon - Wed 10-6; Thurs - Sat 10-7; Sun 12-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, cartoon books, original art) 0171-240 3664

**Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG. Mon-Wed & Sat 10-6; Thurs & Fri 10-7 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, film & tv) 0171 836 4179

**Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (opposite British Museum) 10-6 7 days a week inc Bank Hols. Late Thur-Fri til 7 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, largest selection of newspaper strip compilations in UK) 0171 636 1011

**Graphically Speaking**, 120 Holloway Road, London N7. Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 11-6, Thur 11-7, Sun 12-5 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, STO) 0171 607 7297

**Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; late Thurs + Fri to 7. (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film-tv fantasy, horror, body art, subculture, STO) 0171 485 9320

**Platinum Age Comics/Bayswater Books**, 27a Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3EL. Mon-Sun 11-7 (but sometimes till midnight!) (back, ind, u/g, general 2nd hand books, search service) 0171 402 7398

## OUTER LONDON

**Altered Images**, 6 The Arcade, High St, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1ET. Mon-Wed & Fri 10-5.30; Thurs 10 - 6.30; Sat 9 - 6 (imp, back, ind merch, Brit, gn, STO) 0181 770 3815

NEW **Archive Collections**, 37 High St., Orpington, Kent BR6 OJE. Mon-Wed 10-5.30; Thurs 10-2; Fri 10-6; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-1 (imp, back merch ind Brit gn STO) 01689 824489

**Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Rd, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10-6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art) 0181-597 8547

**Blue Silver Comics**, 32 Northfield Ave, West Ealing, London W13 9RL. Mon-Fri 11.00-6.30; Sat 11.00-7.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO) 0181 840 9446

**Book Gallery: The Illustrated Book Shop**, 11-17 Stockwell St, Greenwich, London SE10 9JN. Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat & Sun 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, 2nd hand & new SF-horror-fantasy bks, art bks, bargain bks, remainders, art prints) 0181 853 2151

**Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, Sega & Nintendo game cartridges, videos) 0181-427 3831

**The Comic Collector**, 252 d High St., Bromley, Kent BR1 1PG. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO, merch) 0181 466 7988

**Comic Shack**, 720 High Rd, Leytonstone, London E11 3NN. Mon-Thurs 9.30- 5.30; Fri & Sat 9.30-6.30; Sun 11-5. Also by appointment (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, gn, hbks) 0181-539 7260/0181-555 9303 (eve)

**Dynamic Comics**, Units 43-47 In Shops, 68 Church St, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch) phone & fax 0181-681 2597

**Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon-Fri 9.30-6.00; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0181-298 1363

**Heroes Akimbo Comics**, 674 High Rd, Leyton, London E10 6JP. (Tubes: Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstow Central) Mon-Sat 9-6; Sun 10-5 (imp, back, merch, STO, Brit) 0181 558 8313

**Krypton Komics**, 252 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO) 0181-801 5378

**MTCC Trading Cards**, 43 Sidcup Hill, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6HJ. Mon-Sat 8-6; Sun 2-4 (trading cards, merch, memorabilia; Trek-Disney-fantasy-etc) 0181 302 3020

**Readers Dream**, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham (near Heathrow airport) Middx TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00 excl Wed - closed (imp, back, gn, STO) 0181-844 0780

**Skinny Melink's**, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE13. Mon-Sat 10-7; Sun 11-6 (imp, back, ind s-p, u/g, gn, STO) 0181-318 0499

**Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10-7; Thur-Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-3, later by appointment. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, tv-film & fantasy, gn, STO) 0181-449 5535

**They Walk Among Us**, 32 Union Court, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, fantasy/s-f/horror bks, STO, sub-culture) Phone/fax 0181 948 8476

**30th Century Comics**, Unit 5, Putney Market (1st Floor), Putney Exchange Shopping Centre, Putney High Street, London SW15 1TW. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, film & tv, fantasy/horror/sf bks) 0181 788 2052

**Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 0181 313 0677

**Westside Comics**, 392 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0EL. Mon-Fri 11.00-6.00, Sat 10.00-6.00 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). 0181-813 5019

**Wholesale Comics**, 687 Seven Sisters Road, London N15 5LA. Tues-Sat 10-6 (closed Sun-Mon) (back issue & trading card specialists) 0181 800 3020

## SOUTH EAST

**ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's St, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon -Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, ind gn STO RPG, rock t-shirts) 01206 561912

**The American Comic Shop**, 1 Church Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (just off High St). Mon-Thurs 10-5.30, Fri 9.30-6.00, Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Trek & Star Wars merch, manga, videos) 01634 817410

**Andy's Comic Cavern**, Windsor Open Market (back of Woolworth's), Bachelors Acre, Windsor. Sats only 7.30-4.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) Free delivery for Windsor & Slough area. 01753 853381

**Calamity Comics 2**, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford, Herts WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; closed Wed; Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, videos) 01923 249293

**Cartoon Shop**, 22 Southernhay, Town Centre, Basildon, Essex SS14 1EL. Mon - Wed & Sat 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG)

**Cartoon Shop**, 368 Chartwell West, Top Floor, Victoria Circus Shopping Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 01702 613021

**Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements St, Oxford. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 01865-723680

**Comics and Cards**, 84 St Mary Street, Southampton SO1 1NZ. Mon-Sat 8.00-7.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) phone/fax: 01703 235324

**David's Comics**, 3 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Fri 9.30-6; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, Brit, STO, gn, exchange, club discount) 01273 690223

**Fantasia**, 142 Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9 - 6 (Wed 12.00) (s-p, merch, gn, 2nd hand bks) 01702 471597

**Fantastic Store Ink**, 14 Gardner Street, Brighton BN1 1UP. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, u/g, STO, original art) 01273 670012

**Incognito Comic Shop**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv merch) phone/fax: 01227 785898

**Incognito Comic Shop**, 21 Union St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv merch) phone/fax: 01622-683642

**Renegade Comics**, Unit 11, Elmes Arcade, High St, Stevenage Old Town, Herts SG1 3EF. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30 (imp back merch s-p ind Brit u/g gn STO RPG) 01438 747468

**Reservoir Frogs Comic Shop**, Jubilee Shopping Hall, Gardner St, Brighton BN1 1UN. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 01273 202972

**Slough Computers**, 245 High Street, Slough, Berks SL1 1BN. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. (imp, ind, gn, STO, Sega & Nintendo game carts) 01753 521594

**Tall Toad Comics**, Amersham Market - every Tues; Hemel Hempstead market - every Wed & Saturday. (imp, back, merch, gn, STO).

**Universal Comics**, Unit 27A, Indoor Village Market, High St, Slough SL6 5AG Mon-Sat 9.30-6.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO) 01753 571 799

**Universal Comics**, 16 London Road, Staines. Mon-Fri 10.30-6.30, Sat 10-6.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO) 01784 460300

**Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 01227 453226

**Wokingham Comics & Trading Cards**, Wokingham Indoor Market, Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire. Sats only (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO) 01734 790441

**Wonderworld**, 125 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 01705 833 272

**Wonderworld**, 133 St Mary Street, Southampton S01 1NX. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 01703 634658

**Words End Books & Comics**, 10 The Boulevard, Crawley, West Sussex. Mon-Fri 9-5.30; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO, Star Wars toys etc, general 2nd hand bks, search service) 01293 547937

## MIDLANDS

**Abstract Sprocket**, St Benedicts Indoor Market, 21 St Benedicts St, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Wed-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 01603 667700

**Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0116 2515266

**Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0115 9484122

**Arrival Comics & Books**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit) 01902-313 660

**Bookworm**, Unit 3, 33-39 Tower St, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon-Sat 11-4 (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 01553 760904/771880

**Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 01473 233017

**Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 01234 218984

**Comics Unlimited**, 26 Town Centre, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0LD. Wed-Mon 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG) 01707 256788

**Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 01462 480018

**Demon Comics**, 102 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1QT. Mon - Sat 10-6. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 01452 330370

**Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 01782 279294/fax 01782 202381

**The Final Frontier**, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) Established 1984 0116 251 4347

**Forbidden Planet**, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, film/ tv material, sf/horror bks) ph/fax 01203 229672

**Forbidden Planet**, 129 Middle Walk, Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham NG1 7LN. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film/tv, videos, STO) 0115 958 4706

**Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, STO, accessories) 01623 22017

**Mephisto Comics**, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 01603 762762

**Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0121 643 0143

**Nowhere Comics**, 3 Kings Court, Bridge Street, (next to Bridge St Records) Walsall. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30, (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, videos) 01922 643352

**Page 45**, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, indie comix & indie merch specialists, manga) 0115 9508045

**Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester. Fri-Sat 10.00-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO-monthly) Phone/fax: 01905 355055

**Rebel Comics**, 72 Commercial Road, Hereford HR1 2BP. Mon-Sat 10-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, RPG, STO) 01432 358 355

**Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG) 01743 365192

**Zoom Comics!!**, Unit 3 Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX Mon-Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0121 354 7500

## NORTH WEST

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 92 Bold St, Liverpool L1 4HR. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO, film/tv material, sf & horror bks) phone/fax: 0151 707 1491

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who) 0161 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 0161 273 6666

■ **Planet Eater**, 5-7 Union Street Southport, Lancs PR9 0QF Mon - Sat: 9 - 6 Sun: 12-4 (imp, back, merch, model kits, Trek, action figures, STO) 01704 548629

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Rd, Blackpool FY4 1DW. 10-5.30 Mon-Tues Thurs-Sat (& Sundays June-Oct inc.); Wed 1-3.30pm (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, media collectors' items) 01253-348321 fax: 407813

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG) 01772-204287

■ **Time Zone**, 3 Academy Place, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 2NR. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG) 01925 651185

■ **Worlds Apart**, 58-60 Lime St (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy film mags) 0151 707 0839

## NORTH EAST

**Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks) 01482 329787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Dr Who, Trek) 01642 249143

■ **City Comics**, 120 High St West, Sunderland City Centre, SR1 1TR. Mon-Sat 10-6 excl Wed 10-2 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, comics bought: cash/credit) 0191 564 0613

■ **Comicville**, Ground Floor, 54 The Arcade, The Piece Hall, Halifax HX1 1RE, Yorkshire. Tues-Fri 9.30-5; Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits, toys, Who, Trek, videos) 01422 351119

■ **Comicville**, 10 Byram Arcade, Westgate, Hudderfield HD1 1ND. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits, toys, Who, Trek, videos) 01484 455044

■ **Comix USA**, 116 West St., Boston, Lincolnshire. PE21 8QZ (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO, limited RPG) 01205 363929

■ **Dells Comic Shop**, 5 Duke St, Bradford 1, Yorks. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9-3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 01274 770 541

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 9.15-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror mags, newspaper strip bks) 0114 276 9475

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 01429 236952

■ **Nu.Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, art bks) 01904 611 461

■ **Odyssey 7**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0113 242 6325

■ **Odyssey 7**, 30 Eastgate, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0113 242 6325

■ **Over the Edge**, 127-129 Devonshire Street, Sheffield S2 7SB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, film-rock memorabilia) 0114 272 8333

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, Star Trek items) 0114 275 8905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps) Establ 1965.

■ **The Last Picture Show**, 40 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thur 10-8, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-7, Sun 12-5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, film-rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604

NEW **Travelling Man**, 23 Headingley Lane, Hyde Park Corner, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BL. Mon-Sat 10.30-5.45 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG, customisable card games) 0113 278 0417

NEW **Travelling Man**, Unit 8/9 The Corn Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30, Fri-Sat 9-5.30, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG, customisable card games) 0113 242 7227

## WEST COUNTRY

■ **American Dream Comics**, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9BQ. Mon-Thurs 10-5, Fri & Sat 9-6. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01249 701647

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon-Fri 11.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO) 01722 331107

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 30 Penn St., Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.30, Sat 10.00-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film & tv, videos, STO) 0117 929 8692

■ **Forever People**, 35 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5NH. Mon-Sat 10.00-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, sf/fantasy new & 2nd hand bks, RPG, videos, tv sf memorabilia, sub-culture, body art) 0117 926 5454

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 01452 309 533

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 01752 257800

NEW **Paradox Comics**, 103 Old Town Market, Dear Hay Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 1NZ. Mon-Fri 10.30-5.00; Sat 10.00-5.00 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, videos) 01202 661346

■ **Purple Haze Comics, Records & Books**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drakes Circus Shopping Centre, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1BX. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, mags, merch, film/tv material, sf/horror bks, gen bks, videos, Trek/Wars merch, tapes/cds) 01752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 01202 422964

■ **Wonderworld**, 143 Gloucester Rd, Bristol. Mon-Sat 9-7 (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0117 924 4655

## ISLE OF WIGHT

**Astounding Comics**, 61 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1UL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 01983 525320

## WALES

■ **Anime Projects Shop**, 19 High St, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1NP. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9-12 (anime, manga, merch, gn, STO, CoBRA) 01248 370044

■ **Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; establ 13 yrs) 01222 563005

■ **Comics & Collectibles**, Stall 75, Pontypridd Indoor Market, Mid-Glamorgan, South Wales. Tues 10-2, Fri 1-4.30, Wed & Sat 9.30-5. (imp, back, ind, gn, STO, model kits, trading card specialists)

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 01792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 01222 228885

■ **Journey into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & CDs)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, Brit, STO) 01633 222159

## SCOTLAND

■ **The Adventure Zone**, 280 High St, Glasgow G4 0QR. Mon-Sat 9.30-6, Sun 10-5 (imp, back, Brit, u/g, STO, merch, s-f bks, tv-related supplies, videos, models, Trek, Dell-Gold Key specialists, mags) 0141-552 3323

■ **City Centre Comics** *now at:* 168 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Wed 10-5.30; Thurs + Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5.30; Sun 12-5. (back issues only) 0141 331 1215 (eves: 632 2786)

■ **Earth 2 Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle St, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.00; Sat 10-5.30. (back, gn, ind, merch) 0141-647 6810 (after 6pm)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30; Sun 12-5. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0131-225 8613

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.30, Sun 12.00-5.00. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO) 0141 331 1215

■ **Future Shock**, 89 Byres Road, Partick, Glasgow G11. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 1-5 (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, SF & horror gn & hbk, film bks & mags, artwork, jewellery) 0141 339 8184

■ **Justice Comics**, Unit 36, The Arcade, Stirling FK8 1AX. Mon-Sat 10-5. (imp, back, ind, gn, STO, merch) 01786 447687

■ **Plan 9 Comics**, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB1 1NE. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (Thurs till 7.30), Sun 1 - 4.30. (imp, back, Trek/Wars merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG & war game specialist, MTG, STO, model kits, magick/tarot) phone/fax: 01224 624467

■ **Reel Heroes**, 100 Barclay Street, Cowdenbeath, Fife KY4 9LD. Sundays only at Kinross Market; 7-day mail order at above address (imp, back, STO, merch specialist, tv/film videos) 01383 515542

## NORTHERN IRELAND

■ **Dark Horizons**, 30a Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4LD (near City Hall) Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, subculture, film mags) 01232 233808

■ **Fantasy Zone**, 7 Linenhall St., Ballymena BT43 5AJ. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, ind, t-shirts, videos, bks, stationery) 01266 46840

■ **Talisman Comics**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 01232 438744

■ **US Comics**: now available in Belfast at **Cardvalue** (Yorkgate), **Newsbeat** (Park Centre) & **Simpsons** (Malone Road). More information 01232 611846 (eves)

## IRISH REPUBLIC

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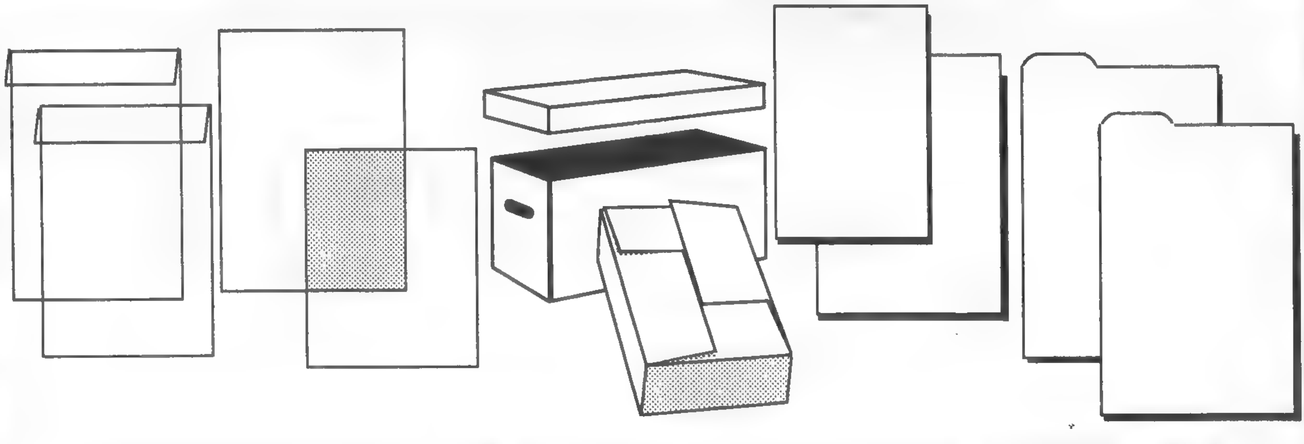

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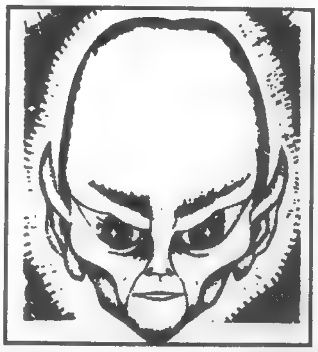

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# GRADING GUIDE

One of the most problematic areas of buying, selling or valuing comics is grading them. A value can vary by as much as 50% through inaccurate assessment of the condition or grade of the item. The days of a comic being "good condition for its age" disappeared with decimalisation.

With the ever-spiralling values for old comics, the art of grading has become a science. The more expensive titles often carrying a percentage "score", between 100 (mint) and 1 (poor). Defects such as graffiti, shop stamps, taped spine and loose staples *should* be mentioned outside of the grade, with the value reduced accordingly (usually one grade down). To help people assess the grading of their collections better, we present the following definitions:

**MINT CONDITION [m] (100%):**
An almost impossible acquisition. A comic is mint when it is printed. But it then is counted, stacked, boxed, shipped, counted again, despatched again, counted again and racked in a store. By the time you buy it, it will be near mint at best. Collectors and dealers hardly ever list mint comics. When they do, selling prices are almost always "multiple guide" (ie. Two, three or more times the price stated for a mint copy in the price guides).
*M has no defects whatsoever. It retains its cover gloss (or lustre) and has sharp corners. No printing or binding defects. Staples centred, fresh and shiny. Literally as new.*

**NEAR MINT [nm++, nm+, nm, nm-, nm--] (97-90%)**
The acknowledged top grade. A particularly handsome copy in near mint is often referred to as nm+, whereas one almost near mint is referred to as nm-. The more expensive the comic, the more precise the grading, with some dealers using the addtional emphasis of nm++ or nm--. We're talking only a 5% difference in price, but on a £1000 or more item, that's £50 a +!
*NM has no instantly apparent defects. A very slight defect is permissible, such as a binding or printing mistake. No fading, spine roll or cover surface wear beyond the smallest corner crease or very slight stress around staples. Cover well centred, still flat and without wear. Spine tight and flat. Interior pages clean white and supple.*

**VERY FINE [vf or vfn, from ++ to --] (89-75%)**
Still an excellent copy, as much as 25% cheaper than a near mint copy, but with minimal wear beginning to show. Still sharp, clean and bright.
*VFN has several very minor defects. Cover: almost flat, minimal surface wear. Slight wear and very small corner creasing. Staples may be slightly discoloured. Corners may have minute wear. Up to one half-inch light cover crease is acceptable. Interior paper may be slightly off-white.*

**FINE [fn, from ++ to --] (74-55%)**
Not to be confused with fr or f, the abbreviations for the much lower grade of FAIR. Fine is quite a collectable grade. No major creasing or defects, quite carefully read, but multiple times!
*FN has no major defects. It does have an accumulation of minor defects, small creases, corner knocks or spine damage. But only minor, no major faults.*

**VERY GOOD [vg, from + to -] (54-35%)**
Despite its name, vg is not very good at all. It is an average used comic book, and the lowest level for most collectors.
*VG has moderate wear, cover creasing or spine roll. Perhaps some fading and discolouration of interior pages. It has no pieces out, except possibly a small cover edge, though crosswords, puzzles or coupons may have been completed. Centre pages may be detached or covers loose from a single staple. Minor tape repair may be present.*

**GOOD [g] (34-15%)**
Complete, except for small pieces missing, usually around staples or edges. For reading (even in the bath!) and gap filling until a better grade copy comes along.
*G copies will be badly creased, but readable and complete. Pages should not be brittle, but will have lost their suppleness and usually be off-colour.*

**FAIR [FR or F] (14-5%)**
Another contradictory grade. Unfair would describe it better.
*FR copies will be very badly damaged. No interior pages missing, but cover will have a soiled or well-scuffed cover with spine badly torn and rolled. Chunks may be missing from cover. Ageing on older titles is to be expected, with interior paper browning as it approaches brittleness. Not a copy for your collection.*

**POOR [P or PR] (4-1%)**
Few dealers would list poor copies unless they are curiosity items.
*PR copies can have glue, brown tape, stains, severe tears, extra staples, graffiti, chunks missing (which should be detailed by vendor). For interest's sake only.*

---

For further information on grading, readers are recommended to refer to the Avon published American annual **Overstreet Comicbook Price Guide** (currently in its 25th year), available from most comics shops in hardback or paperback editions.

**The listing below is a small sampling of Mighty Worlds' forthcoming catalogue #2, to receive a free copy of the catalogue or place an order from this listing, telephone 0181 211 8411 or write to the address below. Postage & packing add 60p for the first comic and 15p for each comic thereafter.**

********

## Preview of Catalogue #2

********

### AMAZING SPIDERMAN

4 fn-.......265.00
*(slight browning)*
1st app. Sandman
10 fn-.......120.00
*(ink stain on cover)*
1st app. Enforcers
15 vg .........74.50
*(cover crease)*
1st app. Kraven The Hunter
25 vg-........22.00
*(cover tear) (spine wear)*
1st app. Mary Jane
27 g+.........25.25
Green Goblin app.
28 g...........21.75
1st app. Molten Man
30 fn+........43.25
1st app The Cat
32 fn+........28.00
*(slight spine roll) (light foxing)*
34 vg-........13.25
*(small cover tear) (writing on back cvr)*
3rd app. Kraven
40 vg-........24.75
*(water marked) (back cover stain)*
Origin of the Green Goblin
44 g+...........8.75
2nd app. Lizard
46 fn..........12.50
*(off top staple) (small spine split)*
1st app. The Shocker
46 g+...........7.65
47 fn-.........15.25
47 fn-.........12.25
*(cover creases)*
48 vg+ .......11.50
*(back cover tear)*
48 vg+ .........9.65
*(cover crease) (slight browning)*
49 vg ...........9.80
*(back cover tear)*
51 vg-........13.75
2nd app. Kingpin
52 vg-..........6.15
*(light subs. crease)*
54-55 vg-..........8.20
60 vfn-.......16.00
*(small cover tear) (cover crease)*
101 vg+ .......27.75
*(cover creases)*
1st printing
1st app. Morbius

### ATOM

1 fn..........89.50
*(corner impacted) (small p/o of spine) (*
1st app. Plant Master
5 vfn-.......39.50

### AVENGERS

2 fn ....... 160.00
*(cover crease)*
1st app. Space Phantom
11 vfn- ......56.00
*(cover mark)*
Scarce, Spiderman app.
14 vfn- ......23.75
*(p/o of cover)*
19 vg+....... 15.25
*(cover creases)*
1st app. Swordsman
21 fn+ ....... 14.50
1st app. original Powerman
22 vfn- ...... 14.75
*(cover crease)*
23 fn+ ....... 14.50
24 vg+.........9.60
27 vfn........ 14.75
27 vg...........5.25
*(corner damage)*
32 vg- .........3.50
*(cover mark)*
35 fn-..........6.55
37 vg+.........4.80
39 vg...........3.50
*(writing on cover)*
40 fn ...........5.60
*(light foxing)*
Sub-Mariner app
40 vfn- ........8.25
42 vg- .........2.70
43 vfn- ........6.55
1st app Red Guardian
44 vg...........3.30
46 vg+.........3.45
*(writing on back cvr)*
47 vg...........3.30
48 fn+ .........8.65
1st app. new Black Knight, Magneto app.
49 fn+ .........5.75
Magneto app.
51 fn ...........5.35
53 vfn+...... 10.75
Avengers vs. X-men
55 vfn- ........6.55
56 fn ...........5.35
59 fn+ .........6.60
Scarce, 1st app. Yellowjacket
62 g+ ..........1.90
*(off bottom staple)*
Scarce
64 vg+.........3.70
65 vg- .........2.00
*(cover stamp) (small spine split)*
66 fn+ .........4.65
*(dust shadow)*
Barry Windsor Smith art
66 vg- .........3.30
67 vfn- ........7.30
Barry Windsor Smith art
68 fn ...........4.30
*(cover crease)*
69 vfn+........7.75
*(back cover crease)*
1st app. Squadron Sinister
71 vfn+........8.60
Scarce

### CAPTAIN AMERICA

100 fn .........76.50
*(rusty staple)*
Jack Kirby art
100 g ..........31.50
100 vg+.......44.00
*(browning)*

### DAREDEVIL

7 vg .........26.50
*(cover tear)*
1st new red costume
8 fn+........29.25
*(small back cvr tear) (staples off centre)*
1st app. Stiltman
9 fn+........29.25
*(writing on back cvr) (corner damage)*

### FANTASTIC FOUR

3 vg .......190.00
*(cover tear) (cover creases)*
1st app. Baxter building & new costumes
6 vg+ .....190.00
*(slight spine roll)*
1st Marvel villain team-up
7 vg-......125.00
very scarce
10 fn+......195.00
*(cover crease)*
3rd app. Dr. Doom
11 g-..........32.75
Scarce, origin and 1st app. Impossible Man
11 vg-........74.00
*(back cover crease)*
13 vg+ .......84.50
*(small cover tear)*
1st app Watcher
16 vg .........41.25
*(marvel chipping) (staple reinforced)*
Scarce
18 fn+........69.50
*(corner damage)*
1st app. Super Skrull
18 vg .........49.50
19 vfn ........78.00
*(rusty staples)*
1st app. Rama-Tut
19 vg .........31.25
*(tape on back cover) (sticker mark)*
20 vfn-.......69.50
*(rusty staple) (cover creases)*
1st app. Molecule Man
23 vg+ .......28.75
Dr. Doom app.
24 vg+ .......24.50
*(writing on cover)*
1st app. The Infant
29 vg-........16.50
Watcher app.
30 vg .........19.75
1st app. Diablo
37 fn+........20.75
*(writing on back cvr)*
38 g............6.60
Paste Pot Pete becomes The Trapster
39 fn-.........22.00
Daredevil x-over
40 fn-.........17.50
*(spine split)*
Daredevil x-over
44 g+...........6.55
1st app. Gorgon
45 vg-..........9.60
1st app. Inhumans
46 fn-.........15.25
1st full app Black Bolt
47 g+...........6.55
1st app. Maximus
48 fn........155.00
*(back cover crease)*
1st app. Silver Surfer & Galactus
58 vg+.........8.70
*(light subs. crease)*
Silver Surfer and Dr. Doom app.
60 vg......... 10.00
Silver Surfer and Dr. Doom app.
61 fn- ........ 13.25
Silver Surfer and Dr. Doom app.
62 vg- .........6.60
1st app. Blastaar
63 vg...........6.00
*(tape removed - spine)*
65 vfn........ 16.00
67 vg- .........8.65
*(extra staples)*
2nd app. Him (later Adam Warlock)
75 fn+ .........8.45
*(writing on cover)*
Silver Surfer app.
76 fn ...........8.95
Silver Surfer app.
77 fn+ .........6.95
*(centre pages loose)*
Silver Surfer app.
78 fn+ .........9.95
79 vfn- ......11.00
81 vg- ......... 1.65
*(large spine split)*
82 vfn..........7.95
83-85 vfn- ........7.30
86 vfn..........6.35
87 vfn- ........5.80
88 fn ...........5.95
Scarce
88 g+ ..........2.65
89 vg+.........3.70
90 vg...........2.20
*(centrefold detached)*
91 fn ...........4.50
92 vg...........3.00
94 vfn- ........5.50
1st app. Agatha Harkness
94 vg...........3.00
95 vfn+........6.50
96 vfn..........6.00
97 vfn- ........5.50
98 g+ ..........2.00

### FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL

1 vg+.......88.00
*(small cover tear)*
Origin of the Fantastic Four retold
3 fn+ .......43.25
Reed Richards and Sue Storm wed

### FLASH ANNUAL

1 vg.........63.00
*(small p/o of spine)*
84pgs

### GEN13

1 nm ....... 19.95
2 nm .......24.95
3 nm ....... 19.95
4 nm .........6.95

### INCREDIBLE HULK

6 vfn......505.00
*(restored)*
Steve Ditko cover and art
102 vfn- ......74.00
*(slight browning)*
Origin retold

### IRON MAN AND SUB MARINER

1 vg-........34.25
Pre-dates both Sub-Mariner and Iron Man #1

### JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

3 g+.........74.50
1st app Kanjar Ro
21 fn+........92.50
1st re-appearance of Justice Society of America
21 g+.........31.50
*(light foxing)*

### SHOWCASE

6 pr..........54.50
Kirby art, 1st app. Challengers of the Unknown
31 vg-........36.25
*(off bottom staple)*
Aquaman app.
34 vfn-.....465.00
1st app silver age Atom
73 vfn-.......31.75
*(foxing)*
Steve Ditko art, 1st app Creeper

### SPAWN

1 nm..........7.95
2 nm..........8.95
3 nm..........6.95
4 nm..........8.95
6 nm..........4.95
7 nm..........3.50
8 nm..........2.95
9 nm- ........2.35
*(cover mark)*
10 nm..........2.95
11-13 nm..........2.50
14-15 vfn+ ........2.15

### STRANGE TALES

101 g-..........49.00
Scarce, Human Torch series begins

### SUB MARINER

1 fn..........26.75
*(cover crease) (sticker residue) (browning)*
Origin retold
1 fn+........38.25
(browning)

### SUPERBOY

86 fn+........34.75
4th app. Legion of Super-Heroes
100 fn+........58.00

### SUPERMAN ANNUAL

3 vg .........25.75
*(p/o of spine)*
86pgs

### TALES OF SUSPENSE

39 vg .......395.00
*(cover crease)*
1st app. Iron Man
44 fn+......105.00
58 fn-.........52.50
*(cover creases)*
Captain America vs Iron Man
63 vg+ .......38.00
*(cover crease)*
Origin of Captain America

### VIOLATOR

1 nm..........2.50
2 nm..........1.95
Bart Sears art

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### X-MEN, THE UNCANNY

2 fn+ .....325.00
*(back cover wrinkle)*
1st app. The Vanisher
7 g-......... 16.25
1st app. Cerebro
10 vg+....... 42.25
1st silver age app. Ka-Zar
11 fn .........38.50
*(heavy cover crease)*
1st app. The Stranger
11 g-......... 12.00
12 vg.........39.50
Origin & 1st app. Juggernaut, origin Professor X
14 fn-........31.50
*(small p/o of cover)*
1st app. Sentinels
16 g ............9.00
3rd app. Sentinels
17 fn .........20.25
*(light subs. crease)*
18 fn-........24.00
18 g+ ........ 12.00
19 g+ ........ 13.25
1st app. Mimic
19 vg.........20.00
20 vg- ....... 15.00
20 vg- .........8.95
*(p/o of back cover)*
21 fn+........23.25
Lucifer appears
21 fn- ........ 15.75
*(writing on cover)*
21 vg...........9.10
*(cover stamps)*
22 fn+ ....... 18.75
*(cover tear)*
Count Nefaria appears
22 g+ ..........9.30
23 fn .........21.00
24 vg- .........9.30
*(spine split)*
1st app. the Locust
27 g+.........10.75
Spiderman appears
27 vfn ........28.75
*(small spine tear)*
31 g+...........6.65
34 vg+ .......11.50
37 vg+ .........9.90
*(writing on cover)*
39 fn..........12.00
*(cover creases)*
40 vfn+ ......15.00
*(corner impacted)*
40 vg-..........8.30
41 fn+........15.00
43 fn+........13.50
*(cover crease)*
45 g+...........5.10
*(writing on cover)*
Story continues in Avengers #53
47 vg+ .........7.90
*(sticker damage)*
51 fn..........15.00
Steranko art
53 fn-.........13.25
Barry Windsor Smith art
62 fn+........13.25
Neal Adams art, Ka-Zar x-over
62 fn-...........9.00
*(cover stamp)*
64 fn..........10.50
1st app. Sunfire
67 vg ...........3.20
*(spine split)*
Scarce 52pgs, reprints #12,13.
69 vfn-.........6.55
*(small spine tear)*
Scarce 52pgs, reprints #16,19.
70 vg+ .........4.65
Scarce 52pgs, reprints #17;18
70 vg-..........3.30
72 vg ...........6.00

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*All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Where dollar and sterling prices (ie $1.50/£1) is stated, UK price is not the air-freighted import price, but instead denotes that the title will be nationally distributed approximately ten weeks later at a lower-than-airfreight price. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 85p.*

*Shipping dates given are usually one week before airfreight copies arrive with your retailer/mail order supplier. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Late shipping, cancellations and changes in content will be detailed in future issues of **Comics International**.*

*Compiled by Phil Hall*

*Key to abbreviations used:*
*1 & 2 + 3 = Writer & penciller + inker*
*sqbd = perfect bound; squared spine; without staples*
*b&w = black & white content*
*pc = part-colour content*
*hbk = hardback (book) edition*
*tpbk = trade paperback, squarebound, comic size*
*Xpg = number of interior pages*
*V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex*

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

SHIPPING:

## AUG-SEPT '95

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☐ **Robotech: Return to Macross 25** (Bill Spangler & Wes Abbott) Nina Lang is kidnapped and the ransom is the secrets of the SDF-1. Also a major new character to the Robotech universe is introduced. b&w . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

NEW ☐ **Robotech: Macross Tempest 1** (Gary Terry) One-shot spin-off of **Return To Macross**. Fokker and Tempest are marooned on a desert island with no food and water. . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

NEW ☐ **Robotech: Mech Angel 0** (Bill Spangler & Jim Reddington) Mech Angel is Robotech's first bad girl. The story of a beautiful Zentraedi assassin. b&w . . . . . . $2.95

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*Valiant imprint*

☐ **Bloodshot 42** (Mark Moretti & Sean Chen) Bloodshot has to face his past in order to save Jillian Alcott, only to find she is wanted for murder . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Bloodshot 43** (Mark Moretti & Sean Chen) While Jillian Alcott waits for an operation which will transform her life, Bloodshot takes on the US army. $2.50

☐ **Eternal Warrior 47** (John Ostrander & Jackson Guice + Steve Montano) The Eternal Warrior joins the battle for religious supremacy, as Gilad becomes a prophet in order to save the world from being blown up. . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Eternal Warrior 48** (John Ostrander & Jackson Guice + Steve Montano) Gilad's immortal life hangs in the balance due to a wound to his heart, as he becomes a martyr and questions his commitment to prophecy . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Magnus, Robot Fighter 61** (Keith Giffen & Kevin Kobasic + Mike DeCarlo) Magnus turns to the Psi-Lords for help when he is captured by the Malevs and learns their secret . . $2.50

☐ **Magnus, Robot Fighter 62** (Keith Giffen & Kevin Kobasiac + Mike Decarlo) While his son Torque's life is threatened, Magnus enters a deadly battle with his wife, Leeja. . . . . $2.50

☐ **Punx 3** (Keith Giffen & Claude St Aubin) Introducing Valiant's newest bad girl with an attitude, the Para-Military Shrew, or PMS for short . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Solar 55** (Antony Bedard & Aaron Lopresi + Dick Giordano) Solar confronts a new villain, Black Star, who is wreaking havoc in China . . . . $2.50

☐ **Solar 56** (Antony Bedard & Aaron Lopresti + Dick Giordano) Solar is forced to make a difficult decision when he discovers there is more to Black Star than meets the eye . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Turok, Dinosaur Hunter 37** (Timothy Truman & Rags Morales) Turok's adventures in the Lost Land continue when he encounters a group of Nazi Women trying to create a race of supermen and their pet Bigfoot. $2.50

☐ **Turok, Dinosaur Hunter 38** (Timothy Truman & Rags Morales) Turok continues the fight against the evil Nazi Women — and their pet Bigfoot — in order to save the Lost Land . $2.50

☐ **X-O Manowar 55** (Ron Marz & Bart Sears + Ray Kryssing) X-O Manowar is asked to join a bunch of nasty aliens deep in space when they realise they can't beat him — their mission: an all-out invasion of the Earth . . . . . $2.50

☐ **X-O Manowar 56** (Ron Marz & Andy Smith) X-O Manowar faces the alien invasion of Earth, as well as finding a new mission. Meanwhile, Aric has a decision to make . . . . . . . $2.50

*Armada: Licensed imprint*

NEW ☐ **Convocations — A Magic: The Gathering Gallery 1** (various) A collection of paintings depicting scenes from the popular card game . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Antiquities War on the World of Magic: The Gathering 3** (Jerry Prosser & Phil Hester + Tom Ryder) Adaptation of the events depicted in the Antiquities expansion of the highly successful *Magic: The Gathering* card game. $2.50

### ANTARCTIC PRESS

☐ **F-III Bandit 5** (of 10; Ippongi Bang) Sabu, a member of the Tail Clan, falls in love with a girl he meets on the beach — but she is from the rival Bug Clan. Mature readers. b&w . . . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Furrlough 33** (anthology) Five new anthropomorphic tales. b&w . . . $2.75

NEW ☐ **Gold Digger 1995 Annual 1** (Fred Perry) No information available. b&w 48pg $3.95

☐ **Hitomi: Geohammer 10** (of 10; Dave Wilson) Team Shadowhunter defends the Earth against Akuma and the newly-activated Geohammer. b&w 40pg . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Hurricane Girls 2** (of 7; Hiroshi Yakumo) Anthology of stories by Yakumo, each one centering on a different female character. This issue: *Tale of the Demon*. b&w 40pg . $3.50

☐ **Ninja High School 48** (Marshall & Lunsford) Terry has been captured, and nothing appears to be going right for the Earth. To make matters worse, this issue introduces Dorak's agent, Dr Vyne, a weapons master. b&w . . . . . . . $2.75

☐ **Shanda 11** (various) More anthropomorphic tales featuring the cuddly panda. Mature readers. . . $2.75

NEW ☐ **Shotgun Mary 1**(of 3; Herb Mallette & Joseph Wight + C. Wight) Shotgun Mary's first solo adventure takes her to Diamond Bay — a city which has played host to the rule of Evil for 100 years — and it is Mary herself who faces the challenge of overthrowing the Evil. . . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Tigers of Terra 15** (Ted Nomura) Former LAPD officer Deanna Pearl is drafted into the secret police. . . $2.75

☐ **Weirdfall 2** (Matt Howarth) Nyata and Murphy are captured by the great Sand-Mother in Egypt. b&w . . . $2.75

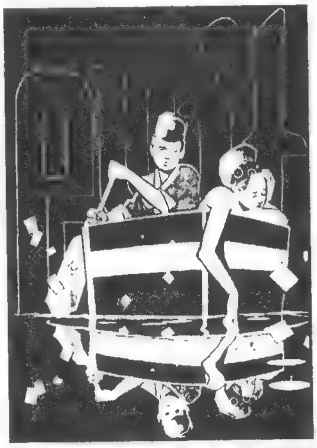
### BONGO COMICS

☐ **Simpsons Comics 12** (Morrison & Gimple) The Simpsons test the survival of the fittest theory in the climate-controlled Springfield Biodome. $2.25

### CALIBER PRESS

☐ **Kabuki: Circle of Blood 5** (David Mack) Kabuki disregards her orders and searches for Kai. When she finds him, a confrontation is inevitable. b&w $2.95

NEW ☐ **Exit 1** (Nabiel Kanan) Karl and his friends have just left school and now have to face the world. b&w . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95



☐ **Negative Burn 27** (various) Anthology, including a first solo story by Michael Avon (*Judge Dredd*) Oeming, Brian Bolland's *Mr Mamoulian* and *Suburban Nightmares* by Michael Cherkas. b&w . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

NEW ☐ **Oz Special: Scarecrow 1** (Ralph Griffith & Stuart Kerr + Daniel Preece) Self-contained tale in which Wogglebug, while on his way to the Emerald City, meets Scarecrow, who is under an evil spell. b&w. . . . $2.95

☐ **Oz Special: Lion 1** (Stuart Kerr & Ralph Griffith + Paul Kowalski) The Lion returns to the jungle, where he declares himself king, much to the chagrin of Hungry Tiger. b&w . $2.95

☐ **Inferno 2** (Mike Carey & Michael Gaydos) Travis is anxious to know his true identity — as well as that of his killer. Meanwhile, Nostradamus battles with Malateste and the werewoman Shule Borraial faces death by fire. b&w . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

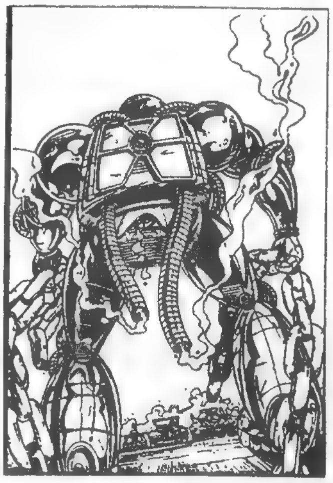
☐ **Raven Chronicles 3** (Bryan Andrews & Wayne Vansant) The crew of Raven, Inc. come across a tribe of psionic enhanced warriors after venturing into the Amazon jungle in pursuit of a pyrokinetic criminal. Dilemmas all round. b&w . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

## CHAOS COMICS

NEW ☐ **Chaos! Quarterly 1** (Steven Hughes + various) Four connected but self-contained stories about Lady Death and her twisted version of lawkeeping. . . . . . . . $3.95

## COSMIC COMICS

☐ **Death Race 2020 #6** (Pat Mills & Trevor Goring) The Death Racers race across a barren desert — with nobody in sight to score points from — when they face the might of the battle-armoured Indestructiman. . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.50



## DARK HORSE

### Dark Horse Comics

NEW **American Splendor: Windfall 1** (Harvey Pekar & Joe Zabel + Frank Stack + Josh Neufeld) Follow-up to the critically acclaimed **American Splendor: Our Cancer Year.** Harvey's exploits, post chemotherapy, are outlined in this 40pg special. b&w . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $3.95

☐ **Dark Horse Presents 101** (anthology) *Aliens* (Ron Marz & Bernie Wrightson); *A Rose for Greg Selkar* (Harvey Pekar & Joe Sacco); *Iced* (Steve Niles & Paul Lee); Cover by Wrightson. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor 6** (various) Tony Isabella, Rags Morales, Jan Strnad, Paul Chadwick and Ellison all contribute to this anthology. Mature readers. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Oktane 2** (Gerard Jones & Gene Ha) Oktane takes on God Zero, a big, gooey creature that walks like a man-thing and we discover the secret of Oktane's origin. All four of them! . . . . . . $2.50

### Dark Horse Heroes

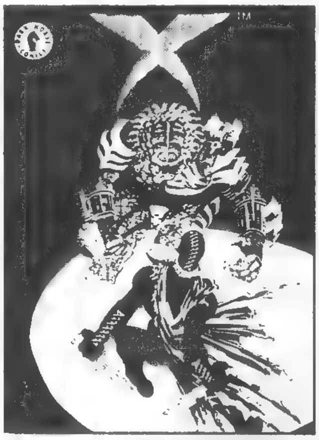
☐ **Ghost 6** (Eric Luke & Scott Benefiel + Jasen Rodrihuez) An assassin called The Hunger has been assigned to kill Ghost. The problems begin when The Hunger overcomes the obstacles that Ghost poses. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

NEW ☐ **The Mark 1** (of 4; Todd Johnson & Larry Stroman + Chris Chalenor) The blackly humourous vigilante series returns with the former Axis men in the creative chair. . $2.50

☐ **The Mask 8: The Hunt For Green October 3** (Evan Dorkin & Peter Gross) Ray Tuttle's sister Emily becomes the new holder of the mask and sets about gaining revenge on years of ill treatment at the hands of her peers. . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Motorhead 2** (Chris Warner + Dan Chichester & Karl Waller + Tim Bradstreet) Motorhead finds himself in-country, standing between a freak show and a bunch of white supremacists. Cover by Simon Bisley. . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **X 18** (Steven Grant & Chris Renaud + Andrew Pepoy) X versus the Predators in the final part of the aliens v heroes storyline. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.50



### Dark Horse licensed titles

☐ **Godzilla 4** (Kevin Maguire & Brandon McKinney + Scott Reed) While Bagorah the bat creature and the US Cybersaur battle for the title king of the monsters, Godzilla plans another comeback. . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

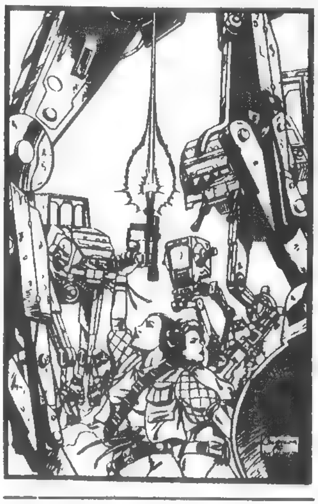
NEW ☐ **Doc Savage: Curse of the Fire God 1** (of 4; Steve Vance & Pat Broderick + Tom Simmons) The only things standing between Doc and his teammates are two giant fire breathing snakes. Can he save his friends and himself? . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Species 4** (Dennis Feldman + Jon Foster & Brian Kane) Based on the forthcoming SF film by MGM, about alien DNA lifeforms. . . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Tex Avery's Screwball Squirrel 3** (of 3; Bob Fingerman + Paul Castiglia & Stephanie Gladden + Scott Shaw + Jim Massara) Three short stories based on the Tex Avery 1940s cartoons. . $2.50

### Star Wars licensed titles

☐ **Star Wars: Rivers of Chaos 4** (Louise Simonson & June Brigman + Roy Richardson) Ranulf must choose between his Imperial allies and the rebel (Leia) he has come to love. . . . $2.50



☐ **Star Wars: Droids 5** (Jan Strnad & Bill Hughes) Artoo is charged with heroic beliefs, but Threepio knows that it's a result of a computer virus which could threaten Artoo's existence. $2.50

☐ **Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — The Sith War 2** (Kevin Anderson & Dario Carrasco) Ulic Qel-Droma spent years trying to control the Force but now he has tasted power he can no longer control the Dark Side. . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Star Wars: X-Wing — Rogue Squadron 3** (of 4; Michael Stackpole + Mike Baron & Allen Nunis + Andy Mushynsky) Wedge Antilles and his team face their greatest challenge as he battles the Imperial Force's spy, Tycho Celchu. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

### Dark Horse Manga titles

☐ **Dirty Pair: Fatal But Not Serious 3** (of 5; Adam Warren) Yuri and Kei have faced all sorts of cosmic catastrophes, but can either of them cope with the Anti-Yuri? . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Gunsmith Cats 5** (Kenichi Sonoda) The Cats have been cornered by Bonnie and Clyde and this time it's payback time in full. Mature readers. . . . $2.95

☐ **Ghost in the Shell 7** (of 8; Masamune Shirow) Kusanagi is sentenced to eight months in a detention camp for saving the life of the Foreign Minister by use of excessive force. Now she is surrounded by the villains she has put in prison and may not last her sentence. Mature readers. . . . . $2.95

☐ **The Legend of Mother Sarah 6** (of 8; Katsuhiro Otomo & Takumi Nagayasu) Toki is reluctant to live by the law of "kill or be killed" and this may be his ultimate downfall. Mature readers. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.50

☐ **Oh My Goddess Part 2 #8** (of 8; Kosuke Fujishima) Morisato and his Goddess have all but won the endurance race, but the Americans have some dirty tricks up their sleeves. b&w . . . $2.50

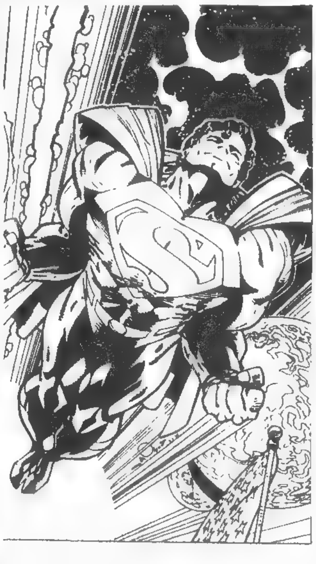
### Legend creator-owned titles

*There are no Legend imprint comics shipping this month.*

## DC COMICS

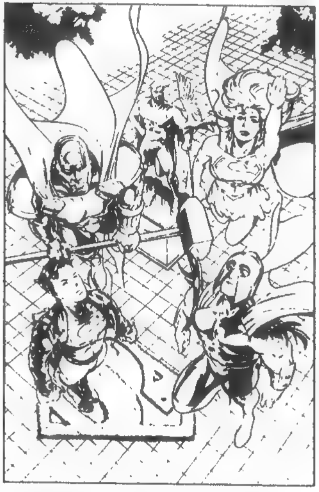
### DC Universe

☐ **Action Comics Annual 7** (David Michelinie & Darick Robertson + Brad Vancata) *Year One* annuals theme continues with Superman's first adventure in outer space and his first taste of humility. . . . . . . . . . . $3.95



☐ **Action Comics 715** (David Michelinie & Gil Kane + Denis Rodier) The Parasite returns to Metropolis and during a battle with Superman drains the Man of Steel of virtually all his powers, rendering him effectively human! $1.95

☐ **Adventures of Superman 529** (Karl Kesel & Stuart Immonen + Jose Marzan Jr) *The Trial of Superman* continues with Superman escaping from prison after an uprising, as the people of Earth begin to lose faith in him. Alpha Centurion gets a surprise. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

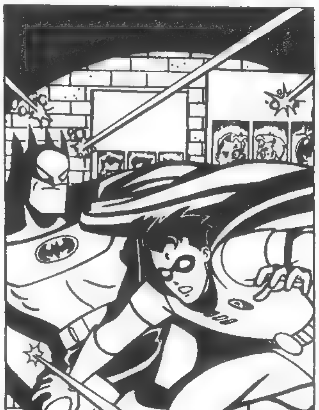


☐ **Aquaman 14** (Peter David & Martin Egeland + Howard Shum) *Underworld Unleashed* tie-in. Can Aquaman stop the revitalised Major Disaster from destroying Atlantis?. . . . . . . . $1.75

☐ **Azrael 10** (Denis O'Neil & Barry Kitson + James Pascoe) Still reeling from the implications of his origin, Jean Paul Valley is tempted by Neron. Meanwhile, Batman, Robin and friends face trouble in Gotham City . . . $1.95

☐ **Batman 524** (Doug Moench & Kelley Jones + John Beatty) Batman faces the Scarecrow, who has his sights on the title of true master of fear. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Batman and Robin Adventures 1** (Paul Dini & Ty Templeton + Rick Burchett) New series of the Dynamic Duo beginning with the first part of a two-part Two-Face story. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.75



NEW ☐ **Batman: Brotherhood of the Bat** (Doug Moench + various + Joe Rubinstein) *Elseworlds'* graphic novel has been resolicited with an extra 16 pages. Batman battles a gang of evil Batmen in Gotham. 64pg $4.95

☐ **Batman: Man-Bat 2** (of 3; Jamie Delano & John Bolton) Batman faces Kirk Langstrom in his subterranean lair, while Langstrom's wife Francine is looking less human than usual. . $4.95

☐ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 44** (Alan Grant & Barry Kitson + Ray McCarthy) Batman forms an unlikely

GOSH!

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**BATMAN & DETECTIVE FROM THE 50'S TO THE 70'S**
**CLASSIC STAR WARS -ANY**
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**FANTASTIC FOUR #1-200**
**GROO (EPIC) -ANY (PACIFIC) -ANY**
**HEAVY METAL -ANY**
**HELLBLAZER #1-50**
**J.I.M/THOR #83-150**
**LOVE & ROCKETS #13-40**
**PETER PARKER #1-45**
**SANDMAN #1-40**
**SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN MAGAZINE -ANY**
**SPAWN #1-22**
**STAR WARS DARK EMPIRE #1-6**
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**WILD CATS #1-10**
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**+ MAIN RUN SILVER AGE TITLES FROM DC AND MARVEL**

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**1.Our budget is big but not infinite, if you want to sell, call now. 2.We are also limiting ourselves to a certain quantity of each title, so please call first to ensure that we're still buying the books you have to sell. 3.It's not always possible to give price quotations over the telephone, especially on large collections or older books. 4.We are unable to buy through the mail, personal callers only please. 5.We may travel to evaluate larger collections. 6. Comics do not have to be in unbroken runs.**

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alliance with Catwoman and Catman, in order to rid Gotham City of the Ratcatcher. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 77** (Scott Hampton) The Dark Knight's strange experiences continue as he is briefly reunited with his parents and discovers what his life would have been like had he not been Batman$1.95

☐ **Black Lightning 10** (David DeVries & Oscar Cariello + Keith Champagne) The now full-time Black Lightning is on the trail of a serial killer, while the city's gangs get ready for a bit of action$2.25

☐ **Catwoman 26** (Alan Grant & Jim Balent + Bob Smith + Ken Hodgkins) Catwoman finds herself trapped in the sewers of Gotham City, with Batman on her tail and the Ratcatcher in the vicinity. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Damage 17** (Tom Joyner & Chris Marimon + Don Hillsman) Miami is under threat as Damage meets Copperhead . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **The Darkstars 35** (Jan Michael Friedman & Mike Collins + Ken Branch) Darkstar and guest-star Flash have trouble at the South Pole, while Colos battles to get back to his own universe . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Deathstroke 53** (Tom Joyner & Fred Zimmerman + Adam Shoultz + Steve Cariello) The President of the US and all his possible successors are under threat and it is up to Deathstroke to save them. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Detective Comics 691** (Chuck Dixon & Stuart Johnson + Scott Hanna + Walter McDaniel) Neron has unleashed a new improved Spellbinder and Batman has to face him . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Green Lantern 68** (Ron Marz & Paul Pelletier + Romeo Tanghal) Lantern comes faces off with Mr Freeze, while Neron unleashes a new villain. . $1.75

☐ **Extreme Justice 10** (Ivan Velez & Boris Rio + Ken Branch) Neron disrupts Plastique's wedding and uses Carol Ferris to release Star Sapphire from her human prison. . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.75

☐ **Fate 13** (Len Kaminski & Anthony Williams + Andy Lanning) Neron's causing trouble everywhere this month. Here, his henchman Blaze forces Fate to make a huge sacrifice . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Flash 107** (Mark Waid & Oscar Jimenez + Jose Marzan Jr) Flash teams up with Captain Marvel to save a theme park from Shadow Thief, who owes his new power to none other than master villain Neron. . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.75

☐ **Green Arrow 102** (Chuck Dixon & Rudolfo DiMaggio + Robert Campanella) The new Green Arrow battles with a drug baron who has gained the power of an Aztec god. You can bet new major villain Neron's involved somewhere. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Green Arrow Annual 7** (Chuck Dixon & Rick Burchett + Chris Renaud + Eduardo Barreto + Ken Fernandez) This story takes us back to the first time the Emerald Archer faced Kotero $3.95

☐ **Guy Gardner 36** (Beau Smith & David Campos + Dan Davis) Neron sends Cheetah, Earthworm and Blackguard after Warrior, but they find his clone instead. . . . . . . . . . . $1.75

☐ **Hawkman 26** (Bill Messner-Loebs & Steve Lieber + Adam Shoultz) Hawkman's stability is tested to the full when both Neron and the Scarecrow cause havoc in Chicago. . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Impulse 8** (Mark Waid & Humberto Ramos + Dave Faucher) Impulse has to face a more powerful Blockbuster and discover the source of his new power. My money's on Neron. . . . . . $1.75

☐ **Justice League America 105** (Gerard Jones & Chuck Wojtkiewicz + Antonio Geraci) Deadshot, Bolt, Deadline, Chiller and Merlyn take advantage of Neron's powers to show the JLA what hell on Earth is like. . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.75

☐ **Justice League Task Force 29** (Christopher Priest & Fred Bernardo + Dudley Wallace) Bounty hunter Glenn Gammeron is on the trail of L-Ron, when he is suspected of crimes committed by Despero. And he's serious. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.75

NEW ☐ **League of Justice 1** (of 2; Ed Hannigan & Dick Giordano) A group of teenagers are transported to a mysterious world where they must gain the help of alternative versions of Superman and Batman (amongst others) in order to get home. 48pg . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $5.95

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 74** (Tom Peyer & Tom McCraw + Lee Moder + Ron Boyd) Continued from **Superboy** 21. Superboy is still trapped in the future and must once more face the Scavenger. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Legionnaires 31** (Tom Peyer & Tom McCraw + Martin Moy + Oscar Carani) Continued from **Legion of Super-Heroes** 74. "The second coming of Valor" is imminent and Superboy lets the cat out of the bag. . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Lobo 21** (Alan Grant & Kevin O'Neill) Lobo encounters a disease-ridden passenger when he is reduced to hailing a cab after his best "hog" is damaged. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Manhunter 12** (Steven Grant & Vince Giarrano) A Psycho-Pirate is feeding on the sanity of others in order to keep himself sane: cue Manhunter. Final issue; *Underworld Unleashed* tie-in. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Outsiders 24** (Mike Barr & Casey Jones + Dave Hunt) The Outsiders are left to face Eclipso alone when the Eradicator joins the hunt for Superman. *Final issue* . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **New Titans 127** (Marv Wolfman & Ken Rosado + Will Blyberg) The Titans' leader is weakened when Damage and Arsenal duel for the last time. Terra is in love and Changeling pays a visit to some old flames . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **The New Gods 2** (Tom Peyer + Rachel Pollack & Luke Ross + Brian Garvey) The whole of the DC Universe will be affected by the outcome of a battle to the death between Darkseid and Orion. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Nightwing 3** (of 4; Denis O'Neil & Greg Land + Mike Sellers) Nightwing is faced with mass genocide in the Baltic and the mystery of his parents' murders. And he's in prison. . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Primal Force 13** (Steven Seagle & Danny Choles + Barbara Kaalberg) The weakened Primal Force are the target of a trap set by Lord Satanus. . . . . $2.25

☐ **The Ray 18** (Christopher Priest & Jason Armstrong + Ande Parks) Neron again — this time helping Atomic Skull give the Ray some grief. . . . . $2.25

☐ **R.E.B.E.L.S. '95 #13** (Tom Peyer & Darren Aucoin + Mark Propst) The Ice Man makes a deal with Neron and draws the R.E.B.E.L.S. ship to Earth — but he's not counting on Vril Dox. . $2.25

☐ **Robin 22** (Chuck Dixon & Mike Wieringo + Stan Woch) Second and final part of *Ninja Camp*. Robin discovers the camp is being used to recruit thieves. . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Showcase '95 #10** (Jerry Ordway + various & Staton + various) Three solo stories featuring Gangbuster, Darkstars and Superman villainess Hi-Tech. $2.95

☐ **Showcase '95 #11** (Dan Jurgens + various & St Pierre + various) Three solo stories featuring Agent Liberty, Arkham Asylum and the conclusion of the Hi-Tech story revealing Killgrave as the villain. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2.95

☐ **Sovereign Seven 5** (Chris Claremont & Dwayne Turner) The team's battle with the serial killer Skin Dance takes a turn for the worse when the villain gains control of two members. . . . . . . $1.95

NEW ☐ **The Spectre Annual 1** (John Ostrander & Pat Oliffe + Elwood Novins) *Year One* continues with a look at the Spectre's early years and the strange relationship the entity formed with Jim Corrigan. . . . . $3.95

☐ **The Spectre 35** (John Ostrander & Tom Mandrake) The Spectre gets involved in the *Underworld Unleashed* crossover when master villain Neron pays him a visit. . . . . . . . . . . $2.25

☐ **Starman 12** (James Robinson & Tony Harris + Wade Von Grawbadger) The original Golden Age Starman is trapped in his tower by the Neron-revitalised Dr Phosphorus. . . . . $2.25

☐ **Steel 21** (Louise Simonson & Phil Gosier + Andre Faber) Steel takes on old Superman villain Metallo in Washington. Neron stands on the sidelines to offer the victor the gains. . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Superman: Man of Steel 50** (Louise Simonson & Jon Bogdanove + Dennis Janke) Superman is powerless, imprisoned and about to stand trial for the destruction of Krypton. While Superman is off planet the Alpha Centurian (from **Zero Hour**) lays plans to make his alternate reality come true in Metropolis. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1.95

☐ **Superman 106** (Dan Jurgens & Ron Frenz + Joe Rubinstein) Superman is found guilty of destroying Krypton and while he waits to hear his sentence, he is thrown into a pit with the galaxy's most dangerous criminals. . . . . . . . $1.95

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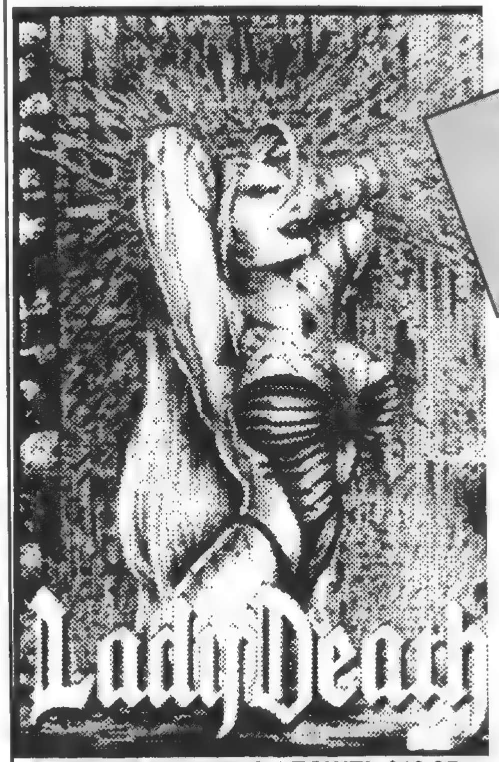

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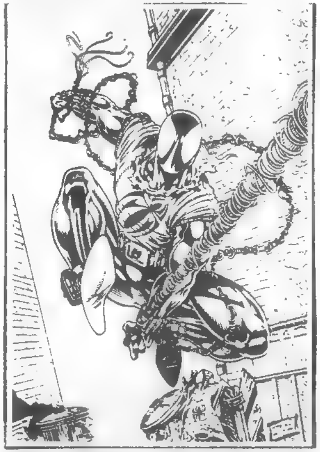

NEW ☐ **Untold Tales of Spider-Man 3** (Kurt Busiek & Pat Olliffe + Al Vey) Spider-Man has got to get ready for his first date with Betty Grant. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $0.99

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NEW ☐ **Saban's Mighty Morphin Power Rangers 1** (Scott Lobdell + Fabian Nicieza & Ron Lim + Mark McKenna) The top two X-Men writers kick off the monthly adventures of the incredibly successful TV show. $2.25

☐ **Ren & Stimpy 36** (Scott Benson & Darren Auck + Gary Fields) Ren becomes a cabbie and Stimpy gets a pair of "super intelligence" glasses. .......... $1.95

## MAXIMUM PRESS

NEW ☐ **Avengelyne/Glory 1** (Roberta Liefeld & Robert Napton + John Stinsman) Maximum Press's self-contained part of the meeting of the fallen angel and Image's sexy goddess. .................... $3.95

☐ **Law & Order 2** (of 4; Marat Mychaels & Chris Goffard + Tony Peirra) Law and Order search for the killer of the original Law, but these two bad girls could kill each other before they uncover any clues. ................... $2.50

☐ **Battlestar Galactica 3** (Rob Liefeld & Robert Napton + Karl Altstaetter) The most unexpected return of all as Adama comes back from the grave to stand at the helm against the Cylons. ....... $2.50

## RUSS COCHRAN

☐ **Crime Suspenstories 13** (anthology) Stories by Jack Kamen, Joe Orlando, Harvey Kurtzman, Al Williamson and Wally Wood. ................ $2.00

☐ **Frontline Combat 2** Stories by Jack Davis, Wally Wood, Harvey Kurtzman & John Severin. ................ $2.00

☐ **Haunt of Fear 13** (anthology) Stories by Graham Ingels, Jack Davis and Johnny Craig. ..................... $2.00

## SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS

NEW ☐ **...And The Days Go By Like Broken Records: A No Hope Collection** (Jeff LeVine) A compilation of LeVine's critically-acclaimed **No Hope**. 224pg b&w $15.95

NEW ☐ **Dystopik Snomen 1** (Don Haring) The people of Dystopia are less than happy, so they spend their time at The Purple Angst Kafe. ...................... $2.95

☐ **Hairbat 2** (David Zapanta) Traumatized by the death of his father in a freak hair-cutting accident, Larry Powell is now afraid to cut his own hair. b&w ..................... $2.95

☐ **Crime Clinic 2** (Dylan Willaims) The true and very violent story of John Dillinger — at one time America's most wanted criminal. b&w ......... $2.95

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CLINIC
#2
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PUBLIC ENEMY #1

☐ **The Killer Fly 3** (Chris Butler & Chris Hogg) The Killer Fly realises the difficulties of fitting into society so he looks at the alternatives. b&w ... $2.95

## TEKNO-COMIX

☐ **John Jakes' Mullkon Empire 5** (Kate Worley & John Watkiss) The Mullkons continue their epic space opera. Introducing the seductive Lucretia. $1.95

☐ **Isaac Asimov's I-Bots 2** (Steven Grant & George Perez + Joe Rubinstein) The origin of the I-Bots and the death of Dr Robilliard. ................ $1.95

☐ **Mickey Spillane's Mike Danger 5** (Max Allen Collins & Eduardo Barreto + Steve Leiahola) Danger and Chandler are on the trail of the only serial killer to appear for 30 years. ........... $1.95

☐ **Mr Hero, the Newmatic Man 11** (Jim Vance & Ted Slampyak + Art Nichols + Angus McKie) Hero journeys to a mysterious cave in search of his missing hand and comes to blows with Adam Caine. ...................... $1.95

☐ **Xander in Lost Universe 2** (Ron Fortier & Ron Randall + Oswald McClellen) Xander confronts the Last Black Ghost and undergoes a most dramatic transformation. ....... $2.25

☐ **Neil Gaiman's Lady Justice 5** (Kathy Lee & Boone) A member of an East LA gang aims to get revenge on her colleagues and it's Justice that comes along to help. ................ $1.95

☐ **The Primortals 11** (Pat Mills & Scott Eaton + Eduardo Barreiro) The arrival on Earth of Primaster means big trouble for Zeerus. ..................... $1.95

☐ **Neil Gaiman's Technophage 6** (Rick Veitch & Brian Talbot + Angus McKie) Rob has been promoted up the corporate ladder and his predator instinct is quickly reaching its potential. .......... $1.95

## TOPPS COMICS

☐ **Lady Rawhide 2** (Don McGregor & Mike Mayhew + Jimmy Palmiotti). The Blade is hoping to add Lady Rawhide's death to his long list of corpses. . . $2.95

☐ **Mars Attacks 2** (Dwight Jon Zimmerman & Charles Adlard) An elite Martian death squad is sent on a suicide mission to destroy a giant ant colony in San Diego! ..................... $2.95

☐ **Return to Jurassic Park 6** (Tom & Mary Bierbaum & Armondo Gil + Fred Carillo) A brilliant geneticist has been stealing dinosaur eggs and plans to breed his own versions of the prehistoric creatures. Now he is ready to unveil his first hatchling. Cover by Golden. . $2.95

☐ **The X-Files 9** (Stefan Petrucha & Charlie Adlard) Mulder and Scully are trapped in an amazing underground city in Alaska, investigating a cult that believes the Earth is hollow. ..... $2.95

NEW ☐ **The X-Files Comics Digest 1** (Stefan Petrucha & Charles Adlard) Big Foot is on the prowl and the FBI agents are on the case in this new digest comic. 96pg. ....... $3.50

## VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ **Animerica Vol 3:9** (anthology magazine) Manga strips, interviews, news and reviews. 64pg. ............. $4.95

NEW ☐ **Maison Ikkoku Hone Sweet Home** (Rumiko Takahashi) Collecting the hotel drama's third installment. 264pg b&w .. $16.95

☐ **Bio-Booster Armor Guyver Part 3 #6** (of 7; Yoshiki Takaya) Commander Gyro sets out to destroy his prototype and the other Guyvers. b&w ........ $2.75

☐ **Maison Ikkoku Part Four #9** (of 10; Rumiko Takahashi) Yusaku's grandmother continues to wreak havoc at the hotel in her guise as matchmaker. $2.95

☐ **Mermaid's Mask 3** (of 3; Rumiko Takahashi) Yuta and Mana must stop Nanao from eating mermaid flesh as it may well kill him. But it may also grant him immortality. b&w .......... $2.75

☐ **Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind 3** (of 8; Hayao Miyazaki) The Dorok people's wrath costs Nausicaa two of her closest friends in a frenzied battle. ....... $2.75

☐ **Battle Angel Alita Part Five #3** (Yukito Kishiro) Further adventures of the hero who battles in sports arena$2.75

☐ **Sanctuary Part 4 #2** (of 7; Sho Fuminura & Ryoichi Ikegami) The Rising Wind Association does the unthinkable, it joins the police force. b&w ..... $3.25

## WARP GRAPHICS

☐ **Elfquest: Blood of Ten Chiefs 20** (Terry Collins & Bill Neville) *Final issue.* Spotlight falls on the Elves hated foes, the Preservers, in a story that fortells the end of the world. .................. $2.50

☐ **Elfquest: Hidden Years 24** (Marvin Auklandis & Steve Blevins + John Beatty) The newcomer, Teir, is exhibiting strange magical powers, giving the people of the village more to worry about, especially as Teir is attracting every magical weirdo on the planet. ... $2.25

☐ **Elfquest: Shards 11** (Wendy Pini & Brandon McKinney) *Revelation Part 2.* The warlord Grohmul has crushed the peasants' rebellion, but now the Wolfriders threaten him and they are far more ferocious. Fur and blood will fly, surely ...................... $2.25

☐ **Elfquest: New Blood 31** (R. Pini & B. Blair) Who is The Wanderer and what secrets does he hold?. .......... $2.50

☐ **Rebels 8** (Tim Harkins & Delvin Barral + George Barnett) The Squatters and Defenders are still fighting, even though the war is over. .......... $2.50

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**UP DOWN and SPIN AROUND**

**Looks like the distribution wars are creating confusion, chaos and work for the agony aunts wherever we turn. I've seen a few hair shirts in my time, but, wow, some people .... Isn't it nice to know that there is still a haven of tranquillity in this troubled fandom, where by mail, fax and phone, you can still savour the luxurious experience of selecting from a million inexpensive back issues. Check out this island of four colour pleasure, this haven of magazine happiness where reading comes easy and enjoyment is high. Go on, pamper yourself, it's summer, you deserve a treat....**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to another of our stock offerings of excellent yet inexpensive (relatively) material and merchandise. This month you'll find yet again a much greater availability of reader pack and special sets. We've put together an extensive variety for you. Many prices have undergone changes. A limited few have gone up, many more have come down, especially when you take set and pack pricing into account.
With our stockholding of over a million comic books it becomes difficult to do justice to our range without an increase in advertisement size, so you'll find that we've jumped up to 16 pages again this month.
We recently sent survey questionnaires to random segments of our customers. We are still evaluating the results but some of the things you all wanted to see was more indies and more variety. We are working on both fronts. Some of the results can be seen in this advertisement. So be good to us and good to yourself, read and enjoy.
In sorting our stock we still have many different books in many different sections of our 12000 square foot warehouse, this is why you could have two or three different computer codes for similar products. The code enables us to go directly to the correct pick bins, so I'd very much appreciate it if you would ensure that the computer codes on your order are the ones given in the advertisement for the title and number(s) that you select. Thank you.

One of the most interesting things about comic books is the sheer diversity of subject matter. From cartoon & kidvid to insightful psychological analysis, from action / adventure to talking heads, the range of subjects covered is as wide as the human imagination. You'll find literally something for everyone within these pages, so we'll look forward to orders from all of you. An anticipatory thank you folks ... The Comics Warehouse is here to serve you, with the best possible product at the best possible price. It is our job to bring excellent reading material to you, and we enjoy doing so.
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OK, Ladies & Gentlemen, its time to get down to the nitty gritty, the serious bit that you need to read to follow how we've laid out our table for you to feast on. The last few months have seen an increase in the amount of comics offered to us, and our stockholding is now over over a million books.
The quantities range from single copies to tens, twenties and thirties to hundreds and, although we don't grade, (a mind blowing, labour intensive job that increases your costs tenfold and is basically unnecessary for us as we currently handle only modern product) all are up to our usual standards of which, you are probably already well aware, if not, try us and find out. When I say that we don't grade, that's not strictly true. As we breakdown the incoming pallets and boxes of comics, we toss the dreck and mashed up copies to leave a bulk of good books for us to sell. What we don't do is split cents from pence, worry about a few books with price stickers or split out alternate covers. Pallets of Comic Books come in every week from remainders to spanking new airfreighted imports, so our stock ranges from mint unread new books through to quality ex-newstand issues.
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In the interest of fairness, impartiality and efficiency, there are a number of guidelines that we would like you to observe when ordering, so that we can process your requirements with maximum speed and minimum hassle.
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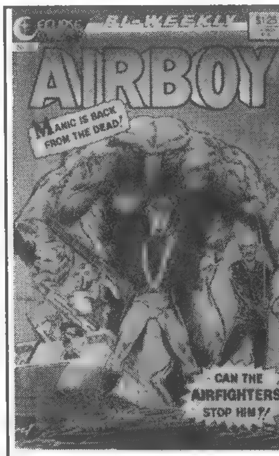
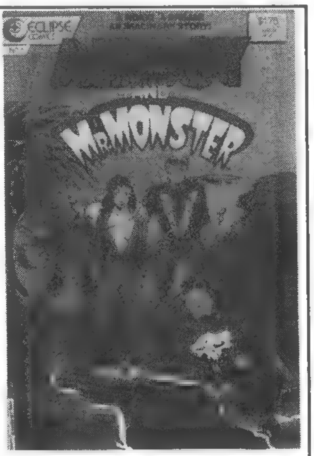


From the 1940's comes AIRBOY the Air Fighters and The Heap. All updated for the 1990s.



AIRBOY & MR MONSTER. Check out the Eclipse section for the goodies.

In mid eighties there was a mini explosion of independent publishing. Many of these companies produced excellent material before, for one reason or another, disappearing from the scene. (Mind you some others like Fantagraphics are still up and running). Here we present some historical indies for your purchasing and reading enjoyment.

## ECLIPSE COMICS

**EL1: AIRBOY:** Airboy was a golden age hero, brought up-to-date by Eclipse but with the feel and flow of many a golden age good book. This vision of Airboy was co-created by Chuck (Batman) Dixon and Timothy (Lone Ranger & Tonto/Vertigo Jonah Hex) Truman. Tim drew the first few issues followed by Star Woch. Tim continued to edit the book with Chuck on writing duties. The book is an adventure/action title with storylines ranging from pure adventure to the super-natural. Other artists like Bo Hampton, Tom Yeates & Ron Randall produced issues, later issues were edited by Cat Yronwode, and in a re-surgence of enthusiasm the character of The Heap is brought back. (The Heap was the first Muck Monster, pre-dating Marvel's Man Thing and DC's Swamp Thing by many years). When we hit the giant sized anniversary issue 50, you'll find the early work of Adam & Andy Kubert.

**EL1:AIRBOY** 1-4......£0.50
6-30..........................£0.40
31-41,44-48 .............£0.35
50..............................£1.95

**EL2: AIRBOY & MR MONSTER Special:** Script by Mr Monster creator Michael T Gilbert, pencils & inks by Michael Gilbert and Mark Pacella.in a nice little story of a Jewish artist beset by doubt and pushed toward self destruction. Black Axis the ghoul and various denizens of the netherworld, compete for his death, whilst the artist pulls Airboy, Mr Monster, The Heap and others to help. All this for just ...........................£0.35

**EL3: AIRBOY MEETS THE PROWLER:** Action/adventure/psychosis: complete inner city crime story by Tim Truman and Chuck Dixon. Illustrated by John K Snyder & Graham Nowland...................£0.35

EL4: AIRBOY versus THE AIR MAIDENS: and you thought that Bad Girls were a new phenomenon. Story Chuck Dixon art Enrique Villagran......................£0.40

**EL5: AIR FIGHTER CLASSICS**: Black & white reprints of Hillman Periodicals "Air Fighters Comics" from the early '40's: I quote from the introduction: "we re-present these original stories with the understanding that in 1942 America was at war with Japan and the image of the buck toothed, orange skinned Japanese was common. We know now - and we also knew then - that such racial stereotypes are not accurate. We present these volumes as both a piece of history and as an example of one of the most loved comic books of the 1940's." 64 pages Black & white $3.95
1,2,3,4 Warehouse ...£1.95

**EL6: THE AIR FIGHTERS meet SGT STRIKE.** Starring Valkyrie, Airboy, Skywulf & Wolfpack...................£0.40

**EL7: AIRMAIDENS SPECIAL:** Starring Valkyrie, Black Angel, La Lupina. Story Chuck Dixon, art Larry Elmore ......................£0.95

**EL9: ALIEN ENCOUNTERS**: An illustrated Horror/Science Fiction Magazine for mature readers. An anthology comic along the lines of the old EC Books featuring penmanship from artists like John Ridgeway, Larry Elmore, Tom Lyle, John Bolton and Peter Ledger. Issues available 9, 13,14......£0.40

**EL10: ALIEN WORLDS:** 52 page anthology SF prestige book: six short stories with a twist in the tail, all by Bruce Jones (remember him from many Warren books like Eerie & Creepy) art by Thom Enriquez, Tom Yeats, Ralph Reese, Eric Shanower, Mike Dringenberg, Bill Wray and Bob Fingerman. Don't worry if you don't recognise any of these artists, take it from me, they are all good, and they know their storytelling. US $3.95 Warehouse£0.60

**EL11: APPLESEED:** Yes, before Viz took an armlock on Manga, and before Manga became as popular as it is now, Eclipse were producing Manga Books. Appleseed Book 2 48pp . prestige black & white Vol 4 & 5 ............................£1.25

**E12: AREA 88 (Manga):** A Viz book co-published by Eclipse: Area 88 (by Kaoru Shintani) is an isolated area in the North African Desert, homebase of mercenary jet fighter pilots. Shin Kazama a promising young pilot is tricked into joining the mercenaries. He vows to survive and get back to Japan and seek revenge. Issues 4-19, 21-29,31, 32,34-39,41,42 .........£0.40

**E13: ARIANE & BLUE BEARD:** One of P.Craig Russell's obsessions is producing full colour illustrated versions of operas. Ariane & Bluebeard is an opera by Maurice Maeterlinck and Paul Dukas. P. Craig Russell lovingly renders it in illustrated form. Prestige format........................£0.95

**E14: AXEL PRESS BUTTON** co-starring Laser Eraser and Zirk (the little pervy alien). A partnering of Eclipse with Sal Q presenting a US printing of UK strips edited by Dez Skinn with art by Steve (Hellblazer) Dillon and Brian (the Gent) Bolland. Laser Eraser is a bad girl assassin, Alex is a blade and cigar wielding cyborg. 1,2,3,4.......................£0.60

**E16: AZTEC ACE:** Time travelling adventure stories 1,7,8,10,11,14,15......£0.30

**EL17: THE BLACK TERROR:** Prestige format mini series written by Beau (Guy Gardner: Warrior) Smith and Chuck (Batman) Dixon. Fully painted by Dan (The Psycho, Worlds Finest) Brereton: Alison Capone has come of age and is set to unlease a new modern crimewave on Wall Street. The Black Terror: Seduction of Deceit Books 2,3...£0.60

**EL18: BLOOD IS THE HARVEST:** All vampire action 1,2,3 ..............£0.75

**EL20: (More Manga) CYBER 7**: by Shuho Itahashi, issues 2-6...£0.50

**EL21: CYBER 7**: Book 2 (even more Manga)
2-10..........................£0.50

**EL22: DETECTIVES INC:** A graphic mystery in sepia by Don McGregor & Gene Colan. Issue 2...........£0.40

**EL23: DINOSAURS ATTACK:** A 3 part graphic novel licensed from Topps with many contributing artists. No 1 $3.95 Warehouse ...............£0.60

**EL25: DOC STEARN, MR MONSTER:** Michael T Gilberts cult superhero pastiche 6,9 ..............£0.40

**EL28: DOMINION:** Like in Tank Police, yep more Manga mayhem. Issue 5 ......£0.75

**EL32: FUSION:** American Manga, worth a look No 15.................£0.30

**EL34: 'THE HOBBIT'** or "There and back again" by J.R.R. Tolkien. Being the adventures of Bilbo Baggins: Art by David Wenzel. Prestige format 1,2...........................£0.75

**EL35: HOTSPUR:** Three part mini series by Ostrander, Waller, Tanghal, edited and co-created by Timothy Truman. An actor, expert in stage combat, is transported into another world, one of aliens and magic. 1,2,3 .............£0.40

**EL36: I AM LEGEND:** Prestige series from the brilliant novel by Richard Matheson 1,3............£0.75

**EL37: ILLEGAL ALIENS**: A send up/parody of Vampires, Alien, Predator, Frankenstein etc. 1 ...£0.40

**EL38: JAMES BOND 007:** Permission to Die Prestige format, full colour written and illustrated by Mike Grell. Issues 1 & 2 as a pack just ..........................£0.50

**EL26: LASER ERASER & Press Button.** The deadly duo strike again in a new series this time with art by Steve Dillon, David Lloyd or Mike Collins 1,2,4,5,6£0.60

**EL26D: LASER ERASER & Press Button** in 3D (with glasses) the whole issue is rendered in 3D including the advert pages............£1.25

**EL42:** Another Eclipse/Viz co production. Manga Book. **The Legend of Kamui**. A genuine Ninja Story for Mature readers. Story & Art Akame product-ions and Sanpei Shirato:
3-10..........................£0.60
11-20........................£0.50
21-23, 25-37 ............£0.40

**EL43: THE LIBERTY PROJECT:** Take a clutch of youthful super powered bad dudes, and try to turn them into a youthful super powered team of good dudes. Written and created Kurt (Marvels/Astro City) Busiek, pencilled & co-created by James W. Frey. Issues 1,3-8 ..............£0.40

**EL44: LOST CONTINENT:** by Akihiro Yamada. Prestige black & white Manga series. Originally published as The Last Continent by Tokyo Sanseisha. 3,4,5,6...£0.75

**EL44A: LOST PLANET**. An alien and magic adventure written and illustrated by Bo Hampton 2,3,4,5.......£0.40

**EL45: LUGER:** 3 issue mini series. Written by Bruce Jones drawn by Bo Hampton. A contemporary rescue the girl from the sadistic villains story.1,2,3 ................£0.60

**EL47: THE MAGIC FLUTE:** Another opera, this time by Mozart, finely rendered in pictorial form by P. Craig Russell. Prestige format, full colour, 1,2..................£0.75

**EL48: MAI: The Psychic Girl:** Manga; an Eclipse/Viz production. The Wisdom Alliance, has used clandestine psychic ability tests to identify 14 year old Japanese high school student Mai Kuji as one of the most powerful psychics in the world. Mai's father has learned of the Alliance's surveillance and is determined that they will not abuse Mai's power. 2£0.75
5,7,9-19......................£0.60
21,24-28....................£0.50

**EL49: MAN OF WAR:** Brutal murders of women in the inner city with aliens, demi gods and a teleporting Vietnam Vet who suffers memory loss written by Bruce Jones: art Rick Burchett. 1,2,3 ..........£0.40

**EL50: THE MASKED MAN:** by BC Boyer. Basically a Spirit Clone down to the clean line of the art and crime based stories. Don't let that put you off though. B.C. Boyers art and stories are worth the pennies we take from you. 2-12..£0.40

**EL51: METAPHYSIQUE** by Norm Breyfogle: whether this is the same series recently published by Malibu's Bravura imprint I know not. It's the same title, the same writer and its in black & white. 1,2......£0.60

**EL51A: MR MONSTERS Three Dimensional Hi Octane Horror: Super Duper Special 1:**
Mr Monster frames golden age horror stories including one by the brilliant Bob Powell .......................£1.25

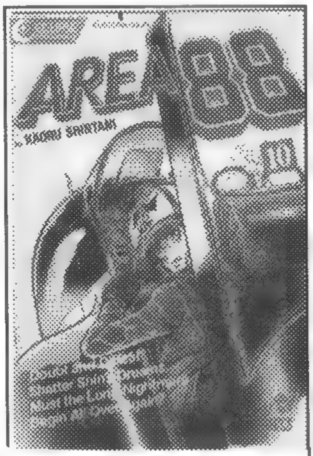
**EL51B: MR MONSTERS Hi Octane Horror Super DuperSpecial 2,** Number 1 (Don't ask, I can't suss the numbering either. Its still a brilliant all colour reprint horror fest framed with Mr Monster pages..........£1.25

**EL52: MISS TREES** Thrilling Detective Adventures by Max Collins & Terry Beatty. A female Mike Hammer, good stuff. 1,2,3,.......................£0.40

**EL58: NEW AMERICA:** Scout 4 issues mini series. The Timothy Truman Scout Saga continues: Rosanna Winter records the 12 years civil war between the rebels of the south western free States and New America as she embarks on a trail of sabotage assassination and intrigue. By John Ostrander, Kim Yale and Gary Kwapisz. 1,2,3,4.......................£0.50

**EL59: NEW YORK: YEAR ZERO:** Futuristic story of Urban warfare and guerrilla groups. Black & white 2,3,4.........................£0.30

Alpha Flight is one overlooked book: check out who guest stars here.



Eclipse co-published many Manga Books with Viz. Area 88 is one.

**EL61: PELLEAS & MELISANDE:** A classic story of love and death opera as rendered in sequential art form by P Craig Russell.
Issue 2 (of 2) ............£0.50

**EL62: PHAZE:** 50 years in the future. A time travel displacement story in which it is planned to transport enemy soldiers back in time to render them ineffective, so what could go wrong... 1,2£0.40

**EL65: POWER COMICS:** One of Brian Bolland & Dave Gibbons very first art assignments was to draw the adventures of Powerman, a Nigerian superhero for a line of Nigerian comics. These are the Eclipse/Acme reprints in colour of those rare historical artboards:
issues 2,3,4 .............£0.50

**EL66: THE PROWLER** by Timothy Truman & John K Snyder. Inner city crime and vigilanteism, a la Batman & Robin in that we have a protagonist & sidekick in action, but much more like The Shadow with a young Ninja disciple.
1,2,3,4 ......................£0.40

**EL66B: THE PROWLER** in White Zombie.
Special black & white one shot..........................£0.40

**EL67: RED DOG** by Rudyard Kipling adapted for comics by P. Craig Russell......................£0.40

**EL69: REID FLEMING** (The World's Toughest Milkman) Black & white over the top comedy pastiche of superheroing
1,3 ...........................£0.40

**EL70: THE RETALIATOR:** Script Valarie Jones, pencils Tom Sinanton, inks Gary Yap. A psychotic kid becomes a weapon in the war against domestic violence and child abuse.
1,2,3 .........................£0.50

**EL72: REVENGE OF THE PROWLER:** Timothy Truman and John K Snyder are back with a mission to find a missing 10 year old coerced into a kiddie porno organisation. (Not for the faint hearted)
1,2,3,4 ......................£0.50

**EL73: ROBOT BATTALION 2050:** American Manga. The odd hybrid of US & Japanese style. Black & white science fiction adventure
1 ..............................£0.30

**EL74: SABRE:** by Don McGregor and Paul Gulacy. The Pirate Mercenary Comic that eventually became (arguably) the very first graphic novel:
1,8,11,13,14 ............£0.40

**EL76: SCORPIO ROSE:** by Steve (Nightman) Englehart and Marshall (Batman) Rogers. Two of the top talents in the field team up to produce a tale of an occult Mistress of Magic. 1,2................£0.50

**EL63: SCOUT** by Timothy Truman. Truman's work is grounded in the old west and American Indian (native American) culture. His recent work has included The Lone Ranger & Tonto for Topps and the Vertigo take on Jonah Hex. His early work is presented here in Scout and its successors Scout War Shaman, New America and Swords of Texas. Scout is Emanual Santana a white mountain Apache para-militarily trained by the US Government. It is 1999 and the US has become a marginalised minor power (much like Britain today). Emanual (Scout) has visionary dreams, the old Apache gods have chosen him Diya Saniya, the war power of the old Apache leaders. Scout learns that the four monsters of Apache legend inhabit the bodies of four prominent politicians & business leaders. He has to kill them. This is only the start of a 24 episode drama covering the dissolution of the USA and terminal wars of succession. 5,9,10,12, 13,14,22,23,24 .........£0.50

**EL63A: SCOUT: WAR SHAMAN** 1-16 .........£0.50

**EL78: SIEGEL & SHUSTER**: Dateline 1930's previously unpublished work from the creators of Superman
1,2 ...........................£0.95

**EL80: SKYWOLF** An air-fighters 3 issue mini series. Story Chuck Dixon, art Tom Lyle. 1,2,3 ...£0.40

**EL81: SOMERSET HOMES:** The adventures of a female detective.
5,6 ...........................£0.40

**EL82: SPIDER:** Master of Men. Three issue Blood Dance prestige mini series created written & drawn by Tim Truman.

**Who is THE SPIDER?**

During the 1930s and 1940s, The Spider pulp magazine stories and Saturday matinee serials served as the inspiration and template for virtually every fictional urban vigilante or super hero in comics, literature, or film that followed.

Richard Wentworth was by day, one of the wealthiest men in the world. By night, he became a merciless, grinning demon feared by those of the criminal underworld who he would methodically hunt and slay; a crazed vigilante hunted by an ineffectual police force; a tortured man, compelled not only to bring felons to justice, but to see them die for the unspeakable acts which they have committed.

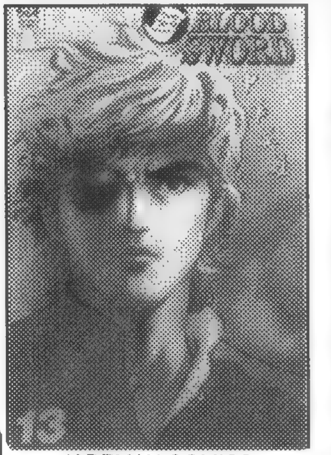
But now, The Spider begins to question himself about the creature he has become, and the things he is doing. Is he, in fact, becoming a monster?

***NOW HE RETURNS*** from one of the most talked about creative teams of the past year - Timothy Truman, Quique Alcatena, Sam Parsons & Timothy Harkins who reunite to blend the best elements of 1930s pulp and 1990s bite to bring to life the tortured, driven avenger known as THE SPIDER! $4.95
Issues 1,2,3 Warehouse just............................1.25

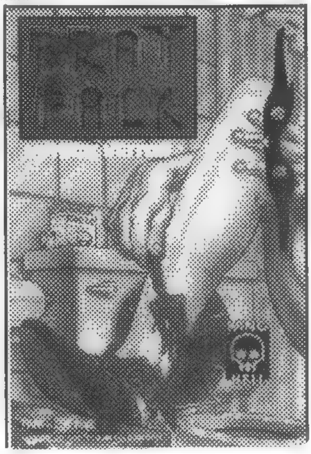
**EL84: SPIDER:** Master of Men: Reign of the Vampire King. Prestige mini series
1,3 ...........................£1.25

EL86: Walt Kelly's Spring Time Tales 1............£0.40

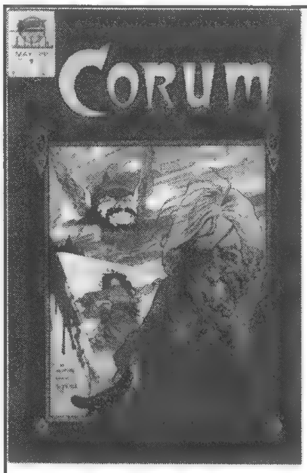
**EL87: STORM WATCHER.** 4 issues mini introducing BOR the wimpy Barbarian 3,4.£0.30



JADEMAN COMICS:
64 colour pages of out & out kung fu action Manga style



EC20: THE BRAT PACK by RICK VEITCH. Mature Readers only
$2.95 US issues 1,3 ... £0.75



~Michael Moorcocks Corum Series from First Comics

**FR16: CORUM & THE BULL & THE SPEAR**
2,3,4 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .£0.30

**FR17: THE CHRONICLES OF CORUM:**
The Queen of Swords
6-12 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .£0.30

Other First Comics in our boxes include:

**FR18: CROSS ROADS**: Whisper & Sable meet at the Crossroads (5 issue min) 1-5 . . . . . . .£0.40

**FR8: DREADSTAR:** The original Starlin Space opera.
27-29,31-47,51 . . . . . . . .£0.40

**FR19: EL RIC** (another Moorcock Classic) in The Vanishing Tower
4,5 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .£0.40

**EL88: SUN RUNNERS:** The Alien Futurist epic by Roger McKenzie & Pat Broderick continues in these Eclipse comics.
4,5,7 .........................£0.30

**EL89: SWORDS OF TEXAS:** A scout 4 issue mini series. Guns, heavy armour & Rock n' Roll as Banner, Jade and the Texas mercenaries plunge into the heart of communist Mexico. Story Chuck Dixon, pencils Ben Dunn (he who is now part owner of Antarctic Press and artist on Warrior Nun Areala), inks Mark McKenna, editor Scout creator Tim Truman.
1-4 ............................£0.50

**EL90: TALES OF TERROR:** The illustrated horror magazine for mature readers: short stories with the usual sting in the tale. Issue 13 ..£0.30

**EL91: TARGET AIRBOY**: one shot by Don Chin & Chuck Dixon. Art by Sam Keith (creator of The Maxx) and Sam de la Rosa. Cover by Sam Keith .........................£0.50

**EL92: BOB POWELL'S TIMELESS TALES: 1.** Contains black & white reprints from golden age comics. Black Cat 9, Race for the Moon 1 and Black Cat 5.........................£0.75

**EL92A: TOR:** from Joe Kubert: The Definitive Caveman and Dinosaur ***story in 3D.*** TOR 3D Spectacular with glasses the entire interior of the book is in 3D including adverts. 1,2..............£0.60

**EL93: The Liberty Project Star in TOTAL ECLIPSE:** The Seraphim Objective (one shot) with Airboy, Valkyrie, Misery and The Heap. Written by Kurt (Marvels/Astro City) Busiek, pencils James Fry, inks Sam de la Rosa £0.75

**EL94: ECLIPSE NOIR: TRUE CRIME:** Real cases of actual crime 1,2 ....£0.50

**EL95: VALKYRIE:** 3 issues mini series by Chuck Dixon, Brent Anderson & Enrieque Villagrain: A bad girl hero book published long before the current vogue for heavy duty ladies.
1,2,3 .........................£0.50

**EL96: VALKYRIE:** Prisoner of the Past. Prestige one shot: story Chuck Dixon, art Paul Gulacy and Willie Blyberg. The publicity generated when Valkyrie takes on and takes out a pack of street punks lands Valkyrie in a Soviet prison on trial for Nazi war crimes.
An excellent read, original US price $6.95.
Warehouse ...............£1.50

**EL97: WEIRD ROMANCE: 1:** Subtitled Alien Valentine. Black & white reprints of golden age horror love stories.......................£0.50

**EL98: WORLD OF WOOD 5:** Wally Wood that is reprints in black & White from Flying Saucers 1 (1950) and Forbidden Worlds 3 (1951)........£0.60

**EL99: XANADU:** Colour special. The anthropomorphic World of Xanadu which is now published by Antarctic ...................£0.40

**EL100: XENON:** Heavy Metal Warrior by Masaomi Kanzaki. A Manga comic Eclipse/Viz co-production
1-5 ............................£0.50
7,12,15,18,20,22,23 .£0.40

**EL101: ZOONVERSE:** Full colour manga style SF Comedy/adventure story and art by Fil Barlow.
1,6 ............................£0.30

**EL102: ZOT:** More S F and Fantasy adventure in black & white: this time from Scott McCloud.
15-17,19-24,26,
28-31,36 ...................£0.30

## DISNEY COMICS

In 1989/1990 Len Wein was hired by Disney to be editor in chief of the Comic Line that Disney had decided to self publish (as opposed to licence). The result was a charming range of disney books that mixed old and new work. Comics that can be enjoyed by all ages: A bunch of them were recently remaindered to us so for the princely sum of a mere 20p each we now offer you

**W1: DISNEYS CHIP 'N DALE RESCUE RANGERS**
13,16 ........................£0.20

**W2: WALT DISNEYS COMICS & STORIES**
554 ...........................£0.20

**W3: WALT DISNEYS DONALD DUCK ADVENTURES**
1,5 ............................£0.20

**W4: WALT DISNEYS GOOFY ADVENTURES**
9,14 ..........................£0.20

**W5: WALT DISNEYS UNCLE SCROOGE**
224, 252 ...................£0.20

**W6: THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES NO 2** (How did that get in there, 'cos it was in this batch of remainders) No 2......£0.20

**W7: WALT DISNEYS MICKEY MOUSE ADVENTURES**
1,2,4,7,8 ...................£0.20

## JADEMAN COMICS

Jademan Comics were 64 pages, all colour Kung Fu Comics done Manga style printed and published in English in Hong Kong. The lavishly illustrated stories are well produced hard hitting all action Kung Fu & Samurai tales. If you like Manga then these long forgotton masterpieces are definitely for you.

**JC3: BLOOD SWORD**
13,31-35,40-42,44-47,
51-53 ........................£0.40

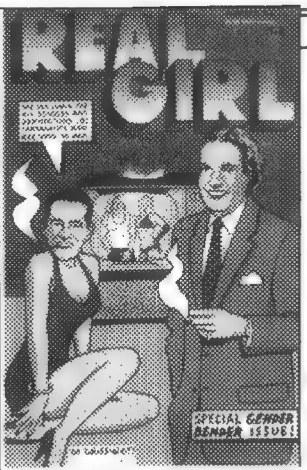
**JC8: BLOOD SWORD DYNASTY**
33,34,36,37,38-=40 ..£0.40

**JC12: DRUNKEN FIST**
33,40,41,44-47,51-53
£0.40

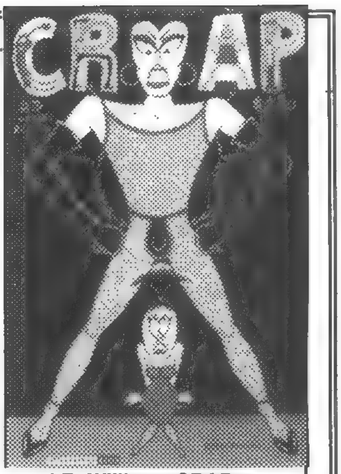
**JC15: THE FORCE OF BUDDAHS PALM:**
30,31,33,34,46,47,
50-54 ........................£0.40

**JC18: IRON MARSHAL**
18,21-24,26-32 .........£0.40

The Comics Warehouse



**From Fantagraphics home of the Strange comes the gender bender issue of Real Girl.**



**J.R. Williams CRAP defies description, cynical, nihilistic, biographical. Experience it.**

**This next section is an eclectic mix, a collection of diverse yet rationally connected elements from different sources. The aesthetic rationale is basically what I choose, so you"ll find hardcovers, softcovers, magazines and all sorts in fact lets call it:**

# A POTPOURII OF FANTASY

Lets start with Heavy Metal: for those of you buried in current comics Heavy Metal will come as an incredible revelation: Cutting edge stories and art, spice of life, docudrama, thrillers, crime noir, science fiction, babes and breasts. The magazine started in France as Metal Hurelant and for several years was only available in the original french: then in the mid seventies, 21st Century Publishing took English language rights and produced the US version *Heavy Metal*:
The magazine still concentrates on European artists but will also use the avant guard from all around the world. Heavy Metal is now published bi-monthly by Kevin Eastman under his Metal Mammoth banner. Each issues runs around 116 glorious pages for a mere $3.95.
Issues available are:

**B1001: HEAVY METAL** (Mature readers only - age statement required)
May 1994 (5/95) Mitch O'Connel, Boucq ......£1.95
July 1994 (7/94) The Man Who Laughs .............£1.95
Sept 1994 (9/94)Adamou's Dayak .......................£1.95
Nov 1994 (11/94) 'Hord', 'Hombre' ...................£1.95
Jan 1995 (1/95) Corben Arthur Suydam .........£1.95
March 1995 (3.95) Olivia: Manara . ..................£2.95

**B1002: HEAVY METAL: Greatest Hits.** Oversized recycling of some of the best stories from the previous 2 decades $4.95 Warehouse ...............£2.95

**B1003: HIGH TIMES:**
*Hey, like, get spaced man, this is, like for the last twenty zillion years, like, the bible man. Wanna get high. High Times is themain magazine, like now.*
Seriously folks. High Times is the Cannibis alternative culture magazine that's been around since Neandethals first toked a spiff.
We don't condone or condemn, but do believe in everyone's right to read. That right to read is of course tailored and shaped by the laws of the UK therefore you must be over 18 to order High Times. High Times is a regular monthly magazine just like Cosmopolitan or GQ only it just happens to be all about illegal substances. We've been passed a few copies to offer you, so here they are"

**B1003: HIGH TIMES:** 228, 232 $3.95 US Warehouse ...............£1.95

**B1003A: BEST OF H.T.** 20th Anniversary edition $4.95 .......................£2.95

**B1004: MORBUS GRAVIS 1** by Paolo Elenteri Serpieri. A hardcover Kitchen Sink / Heavy Metal book graphically detailing a futuristic society in which a virus changes people into sexually rabid murderous and caniballistic poly morphs. The story is of Druna and her efforts to obtain anti viral drugs for her infected lover, Shastar. This book is adults only and an age statement is mandatory: US $14.95 Warehouse ...............£9.95

**B1005: THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMASK:** by Rick Geary. A slim landscape hardcover Christmas Mask story - A Dark Horse Book US $9.95 Warehouse £.5.95**B1006: The Illustrated HISTORY OF CRIME COMICS** by Mike Benton. Lavishly illustrated history with covers and interior panels of Golden to Silver Age. Crime comics and the pulps that preceeded them, from Crime Doesn't Pay to Mistree, includes guide and check list. Hardcover: US $24.95 Warehouse£8.95

**B1007: The Illustrated HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION COMICS:** Companion Volume to the Illustrated History of Crime Comics, this is a 152 page hardcover well illustrated with colour covers and interior pages from Buck Rogers to Planet comics, from Mysta on the Moon to Adam Strange. Includes a guide and check list. US $24.95 Warehouse ..£8.95

**B1008: THE GUIDE TO LARRY NIVENS RINGWORLD.** Ever read any of the Ringworld books, they are extremely good, a blend of hard science and adventure. The Ringworld is an artificial ring built in orbit around a sun. All the inhbitants exist on the innerside of the ring facing the sun. The land area is equivalent to that of three million earths. One definitely needs a guide. Hardcover 188 pages US $20.00 Warehouse ...£9.95

**B1009: RICHARD CORBENS ART BOOK:** Volume 2. Richard was a doyen of the underground in the early seventies with much acclaimed work. He went on to airbrush, heavy metal,, portfolios, book and record cover work (both Bat Out of Hell and Bat Out of Hell Two are Corben Sleeves).You name it. He's been there.His work is superb. Yes, I am a fan. From fantasy and horror to the female form and studies in contemplation this 64 page full colour softcover has them all.
Recommended (mature readers) US $19.95 Warehouse price.....£11.95

**B1010: DEN SAGA:** part 4 by Richard Corben. A full colour fantasy saga for Mature Readers. US $4.95 Warehouse ..............£3.50

**B1011: The FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROS LIBRARY:** 96 page softcovers representing the early adventures of those freaked out dopeheads Phineas, Franklin and Fat Freddy. Vol 1 and Vol 2, US $9.95 Warehouse£5.95

**B1012: CEMETARY DANCE:** Best selling magazine of dark mystery suspense and horror. Departments in Goremania, Trash Theatre & Book Reviews plus excellent horror mystery fictions. Issues 17/18 doublesize 128 pages US $4.00 Warehouse ...............£1.95

**B1013: CADILLACS & DINOSAURS:** by Mark Shultz. Award winning EC style adventure series set in a weird future world of 1950s classic cars, dinosaurs & mammoths. 136 page softcover representing the early hard to find issues of Xerozoic tales. US $14.95 Warehouse ...............£9.95

**B1014: THE COMPLETE CRUMB:** Vol 10 118 page softcover in colour and black & white. Robert Crumb should need no introduction, he's only one of the most influential cartoonists in the world. US $16.95 Warehouse ..............£12.95

**B1015: DEADLINE:** Self-styled style magazine for under-achievers, Deadline is a mix of Comic Strips, Music and Wired.
**57** Oh Bondage, Pearl Jam, Fascism ....................£1.25
**58:** Tank Girl, The Blaggers Guide to Christmas, Sonic Youth ........................£1.25

**B1016: DEADBONE** by Vaughn Bode From the creator of Cheech Wizard, the late Vaughn Bode comes his pre-cheech series from '68/69 in a 64 page softcover from Fantagraphic Books. US $9.95 Warehouse .....£6.95

**B1017: THE FAIRY TALES OF OSCAR WILDE** illustrated by P. Craig Russell (Sandman 50) Hardcovers $15.95 Vol 1 and Vol 2 price each £9.95

**B1018: SCARY MONSTERS MAGAZINE:** A labour of love. This magazine picks up the caption craziness of Famous Monsters and produces a fan magazine of reviews, overviews and interviews.
Issues 10,11, 68 pages $3.95 Warehouse .....£1.75

**B1019: MOBIUS**: The Collected Fantasies of Jean Giraud **No. 9 Stel**: 80 pages full colour. An epic graphic novel at $12.95 Warehouse price.......£8.50

RICHARD CORBEN'S
den
FANTASTIC ADVENTURES!

Richard Corben's Den Saga along with the Corbens Art Book are both here.

HEAVY METAL

Heavy Metal Magazine. Heavy Metal Art. Recommended Reading

# FANTAGRAPHIC BOOKS

**Fantagraphics is an imprint owned by Gary Groth of the Comics Journal.**
**Fantagraphics publish everything that's weird, wonderful idiosyncratic thought provoking biographical and/or downright diabolical.**
**To run descriptive text on all these comic books and graphic novels would probably take up more space per title that even I (who runs off at the pen at the drop of a deadline) am willing to concede.**
**Suffice it to say that whatever the title whatever the subject, if you think,... then Fantagraphics are worth checking out.**
**Any issue of Previews or Advance will give you lots of background on Fantagraphics.**
**I regard all Fantagraphics as mature titles, therefore an age statement is necessary.**
**Here's our Fantagraphics Bargain Bin. Supplies of these books are extremely limited.**

**FB1: AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH** ....................£0.50
**FB2: ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JACK.** 9,12...........................£0.50
**FB3: ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JACK.** 4 Comic Pack. Signed by the artist. ..£2.00
**FB6: AESOPS FABLES** .................................£0.50
**FB8: ALEX** 1,3 .........£0.90
**FB9: COLIN UPTONS BIG THING** 3...................£0.75
**FB11: PETER KUPERS BLEEDING HEART** 5£0.75
**FB12: Wally Woods Cannon** 3 ...............£0.75
**FB14: Colin Uptons Authorised Big Black Thing** 1 .....................£0.75
**FB16: Cereal Killing** 5...............................£0.75
**F18: CRAP by J R Williams** 3 ..................£0.75
**FB20: CRITTERS** 7,12,18,20,24,28,34..£0.40
**FB22: CUD** 4 ............£0.70
**FB24: DALGODA** 7..£0.50
**FB26: DOGBOY** 1,2,5,6,7,8............... .£0.50
**FB28: DOOMSDAY SQUAD** featuring the classic art of John Byrne representing his early Charlton Work (now that goes back a few years!) 2,3,4,5,6.....................£0.75
**FB30: EIGHTBALL** 11,13.........................£0.75
**FB32: THE EYE OF MONGOMBO** 4,7.............................£0.50
**FB34: GIRL TALK 1** with flipbook Real Girl 7 ...£0.95
**FB38: GOOD GIRLS** 3,4.............................£0.75
**FB40: GRIT BATH** 3 £0.75
**FB42: GROOT LORE** 1,2.............................£0.60
**FB46: HOLO BROTHERS** 1................................£0.50
**FB48: HOLYCROSS** $4.95 A political Drama of War Torn Belfast sayeth the cover ........................£2.50
**FB50: IDIOTLAND** 3 £0.70
**FB52: INSOMNIA** 1..£0.90
**FB54: ITCHY PLANET** 1,2...........................£0.75
**FB56: JIM VOL II** 1,2...........................£0.75
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**FB59: LIFE UNDER SANCTIONS** ...........£0.75]
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**FB63: THE NATURAL INQUIRER** 1 .............£0.75
**FB64: ROBERTA GREGORY'S NAUGHTY BITS** The Saga of Bitchy Bitch 11,12,13...........£0.95
**FB66: PALESTINE** 3,4,5...............................£0.75
**FB68: PEEPSHOW** 5£0.75
**FB70: PLAYGROUNDS** 1................................£0.75
**FB72: REAL GIRL** 6 £0.95
**FB74: REAL STUFF** 11-14,17...................£0.75
**FB76: TWIST** 2.........£0.60
**FB78: USAGI YOJIMBO** 37,38.........................£0.75
**FB80: VAUGHN BODE SKETCHBOOK** 2 $9.95....................£3.75
**FB82: VERBATIM** 1.£0.60
**FB84: WAY OUT STRIPS** 1,2,3...........................£0.60
**FB85: WHOT NOT** 3 £0.60
**FB86: PETER KUPERS WILD LIFE** 1,2.........£0.75
**FB88: ZOOT** 3..........£0.60

The Comics Warehouse

# NOW WE MOVE INTO THE MAINSTREAM...

Whether you are new to comics, or an old hand at the game, I think you'll find that the editorial staff at DC know their stuff.
DC have a huge range of titles. From Superhero (Batman, Superman, Wonderwoman etc) to unusual costumed adventurers (Starman, Fate). Their titles are incredibly diverse from cartoon humour (Looney Tunes, Animaniacs) to darkly macabre modern horror (Hellblazer, Preacher) with a lot of thought provoking and personal work thrown into the melting pot.
In its search for talent, DC, owned by Time Warner, covers the world. Over recent years many UK based writers and artists have taken centre stage at DC. They've produced experimental frameworks, helped launch successful titles and in general established DC's Vertigo imprint as the (to quietly paraphrase a famous quote) "thinking man's" comic books. DC definitely have comic the right stuff, books for discerning readers to comic books for casual browsers.
Titles to please, titles to read, titles to enjoy, titles to argue over, and titles to get intense about. Over to you ladies and gentlemen...............

**MAXIMUM CARNAGE**
**5" action figure Three-pack #44300.**
**This special boxed set includes one each of Spider-Man, Venom and Carnage 5" action figures, in special Maximum Carnage packaging.**
**A triple threat!**
**All three 5" figures in one box - *special offer* £17.95**

**TS609**

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ITEM NO. 44300

**DC1: ACTION COMICS STARRING SUPERMAN:** 585-588,603-607,661,664-683,686-699,701-709..£0.40
Issue 685 with Doomsday, the villain from nowhere who killed Superman ..........£0.75
Issue 700 giant sized issue: The Fall of Metropolis .£0.95

**DC2D :ACTION COMICS** No 687 (Introducing the Reign of the Supermen) Special edition with Die Cut Cover ..........................£0.70

**DC2E:ACTION COMICS** 695: Embossed cover version ........................£0.75

**DC4: ACTION ANNUALS**
4 (Eclipso), .................£0.40
5 (Bloodlines)..............£0.40
6, Elseworlds by Byrne£0.95

**DC21: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN** 440-442,473, 474,477-496, (496 has a Doomsday cameo),.....£0.50
499-522.......................£0.40
Yes including the newstand issue of the Landmark resurrection issue 500, *just ..............................40p!*
523,524.......................£0.90

**DC21C: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN** 500: Special polybagged Collectors edition with trading card, contains eight extra story pages over the newstand version ...... .................£0.80

**DC21H: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN** No 500 Special pack one newstand and one Collector's edition for just .........................£0.95

**DC21D: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN** 501 introducing Reign of the Supermen. Special edition with die cut cover ....................£0.95

**DC21E: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN** 505 Special prism cover edition......£0.60

**DC23: AGENT LIBERTY** Giant size one shot fleshing out Agent Liberty, an action hero in the Captain America vein set in Superrman's metropolis ..................£0.35

**DC24: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN** Annuals
3 Armageddon 2000, 4 Eclipso, 5 Bloodlines...£0.50
6 Elseworlds...............£0.95

**DC40: ANIMA**
**(A new blood heroine)**
1-12.............................£0.50

**DC43: ANIMANIACS.** New cartoon, sorry, animated series from Warner Bros. Issue 1 ........................£0.50

**DC50: AQUAMAN**: Time & Tide: The mini series by Peter David that went back and re-defined the Aquaman Mythos: 1-4 ................£0.60

**DC50A: AQUAMAN:** Time & Tide: Full set of all four issues: pack price .......£1.75

**DC54: AQUAMAN**: The current 1995 series written by Peter David in which Aquaman's hand is eaten by Pirahna fish and in its place a very sharp hooked blade is attached. Should lead to some interesting story lines, sample the saga of the man with the bloody stump:
Issues 1-2 ..................£0.50
3..................................£0.75
4,5,6,7,8.....................£0.50

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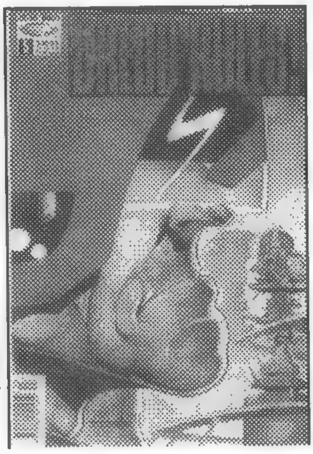
Back at the dawn of history (around 1990/1991) DC began to theme their summer annuals sometimes using individual giant size story bookends, at the beginning of the run to introduce the concept and at the end of the annuals publishing season to close the story. In 1994 the Annuals theme was Elseworlds stories, in 1993 The Bloodlines saga, 1992 saw Eclipso almost shadow the globe and 1991 was Armageddon 2001. Armageddon took the concept of a Rogue Hero dominating the world a few years in the future then going back in time to ensure that his will prevailed. The time travelling aspects of the storyline were quite well done and the series also spawned two four issue mini series called Alien Agenda and Armageddon Inferno: all of which leads us into offering you a good read in:

**DC61: ARMAGEDDON**: The Alien Agenda 1-4 .£0.30

**DC62: ARMAGEDDON** 2001 Special 1 ...........£0.50



DREDD'S on the Big Screen. Time to look at his comics again, check 'em out.

From US Fleetway we can offer these full colour comics.

**FQ7 DREDD & BURIED.**
Necropolis The Judge Death Invasion.
1, 2, 4-7 . . . . . . . . . .£0.40

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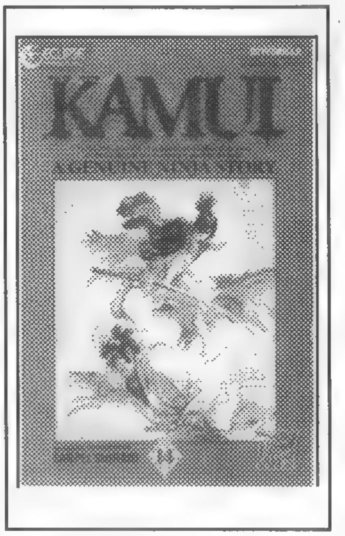

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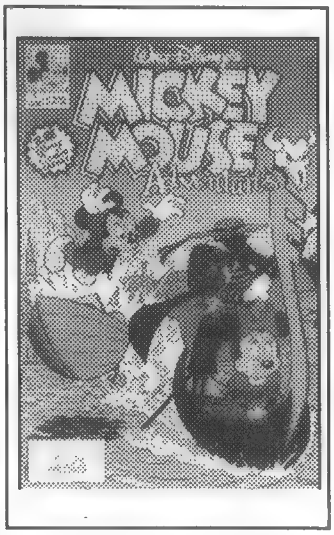

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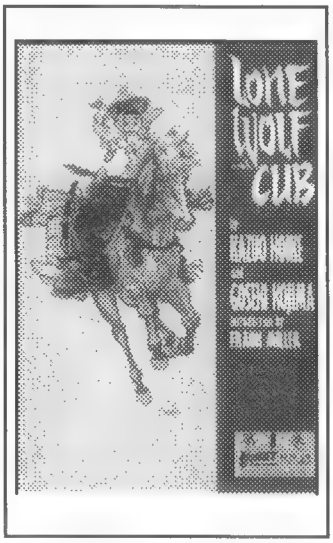

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bringing everybody into
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Captain Marvel to Guy
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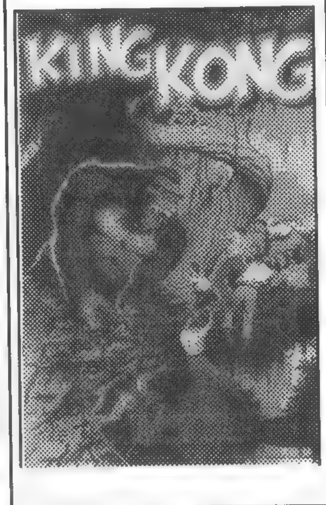

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**KING KONG is a Monster Comics Project edited by Gary Groth.**
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**DC449: LEGIONNAIRES Annual** No 1 an Elseworlds tale US $2.95 UK£2.00 Warehouse £0.75

**DC448B: LEGIONNAIRES Reader Pack B** First 5 issues 1-5 special pack price..........................£0.95

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50 double sized ........£0.70

**L.E.G.I.O.N.** has now ceased publication. In the closing stages of the book were stories about prejudice and rebellion, love & betrayal, culminating in the overthrow of L.E.G.I.O.N. by Dox's megalomaniac infant (yes infant) son, causing the title to transform itself into **R.E.B.E.L.S.**

As with many of the other titles that we have on offer in our one million book stockholding, we've put together a number of reader friendly L.E.G.I.O.N. intro packs so that you too can enjoy this pot pourri of space opera and intergalactic intrigue.

**DC451B: L.E.G.I.O.N.** issues 34-37 intro pack, set price ....................£0.90

**DC451C: LE.G.I.O.N.** Issues 42-45 intro pack set price..........................£0.95

**DC451D: LE.G.I.O.N.** Issues 51-54 intro pack set price..........................£0.95

**DC451E: LE.G.I.O.N.** Issues 59-62 intro pack set price..........................£0.95

**DC452: L.E.G.I.O.N. Annual** - 3, 4 ...........£0.60
5 Elseworlds story "The Spy who Fragged Me" a James Bond send up, plus others .......................£0.90

**LEGION OF SUPERHEROES:**

Now we get into confusing territory: The Legion of Superheroes from the Silver Age sort of became adult/grew up & were re-launched as a title around 89/90. Set in the possible future of "Invasion", the Dominators having invaded & conquered Earth. With Lobo, Darkseid, and Legion genetic material being grown in clone banks by the Dominators, Keith Giffens Nine panels per page style, is a series to persevere with.In later issues, with the Dominators gone, the storyline is more accessable, but there again we read comics to penetrate the plot lines as well as enjoy the surface glitz. Check out this version of the Legion of Superheroes with our reader packs.

**DC461: Legion of Superheroes** (current) 23-39, 43-55,57-59, 62-67 ..........................£0.50

**DC461B: Legion of Superheroes: Reader Pack B:** Issues 25-28 inclusive set price .....£1.25

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**DC461D: Legion of Superheroes: Reader Pack D:** Issues33-36 inclusive set price .....£1.25

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**DC466: LOBO'S BIG BABE Spring Break Special** one shot ($1.95) .......................£1.25

**DC467: LOBO & DEADMAN:** The Brave & The Bald by Alan Grant & Martin Emond. Its an absolute hoot of a comedy thriller, how do you arrest a ghost who keeps changing bodies on you? US $3.50 UK £2.50 - Warehouse price .....£0.95

**DC468: LOBO in the CHAIR** one shot special by Alan Grant and excellent art from Martin Emond ......................£0.60

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1,2 ............................£0.75
3-15 ..........................£0.60
16 .............................£0.95

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**DC470C: LOBO** issues 9-12 special frag set price for all 4......................£1.75

**DC471A: LOBO** Annual 1Bloodlines...£0.75

**DC477: LOBO:** Portrait of a Victim .............£0.765

**DC478: LOBO: UnAmerican Gladiators** 1-4 ..........................£0.60

**DC478A: LOBO:** UnAmerican Gladiators: Full set of four issues - pack price .................£1.40

**DC479: LOBOCOP** Special.....................£0.75

**DC481: LOONEY TUNES** 1-5 ...........................£0.40
Following LOBO with LOONEY TUNES has a kind of poetic justice ring about it. Check out other appearance of the Main Man in our Vertigo and Mature Section.

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2,3,4 ........................£0.40

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**DC541E: NEW TITANS** Reader pack of four issues 102-105 incl set price.....£1.25

**DC541F: NEW TITANS** Reader pack of four issues 106-109 incl set price.....£1.25

**DC542: NEW TITANS Annual** 8, 9 .............£0.50

**DC543X: NEW TEEN TITANS** Drug Awareness Blue White Cover .....£0.30

**DC560: OUTSIDERS:** (Current series) Issue One, Alpha & Omega as a set of two comics .....................£0.60

**DC560A: OUTSIDERS** (Current series) 2-16 £0.35

**DC571: THE PSYCHO** with fully painted art by Daniel Brereton Prestige 3 issue series 2,3 ........£0.75

**DC577X: THE PHANTOM STRANGER** Four part mini series 1,2,3,4 ....£0.30

**DC579: THE POWER OF SHAZAM:** Billy Batson and the Big Red Cheese are back in the p.c. nineties: Holy Moley ($1.50) 1,2 ...............£0.60
3,4,5 .........................£0.85

**DC580E: PRINCE: Alter Ego** Bolland Cover, Dwayne McDuffie writer, Denys Cowan pencils, Kent Williams inks, DC Piranha Music Press oneshot $2.00 US, Warehouse just ........£0.50

**DC582X: POWER OF THE ATOM:** You can't keep a good hero down: The Atom deserves his own series, not just guest shots and occasional specials 1-17 ............£0.30

**DC585: PRIMAL FORCE** (New 1995) 1-5.........£0.40

**DC591: RAGMAN** (eight issue series) 1,3-7 ....£0.40

**DC592: RAGMAN** (eight issue series): all 8 issues pack price of ............£1.95

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**DC593A: RAGMAN Cry of the Dead** Complete set of all six issues just...£1.75

**DC594: THE RAY** (6 issue series) Joe Quesada Art
1,2,3 .............................£0.35
4. ..................................£0.50

**DC596: THE RAY** (New 1995 ongoing series)
1-4,6-9 ..........................£0.50
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In Zero Hour the galactic private police force L.E.G.I.O.N. was overthrown by the megalomaniac infant son of Vril Dox. Now the former heroes of L.E.G.I.O.N (its a real pain sticking all those dots between each l.e.t.t.e.r) are outcasts and known as R.E.B.E.L.S.

**DC597: R.E.B.E.L.S. '94** 1-5 ...........................£0.50

**DC599: Restaurant at the End of the Universe:** The latest DC Prestige format foray into Hitchhikers Guide Territory. Issues 1,2 ................£0.95

**DC600: ROBIN (Current)** The new Robin series has taken everyone by storm, its a great series of teen tales set in a problem city that is Gotham. Robin (Tim Drake) is gathering his own cast of friends & enemies, best click into it now cos our stocks are flying out the door fast. 1,4,6,10-16 ..............£0.60

**DC600C: ROBIN** de luxe embossed cover edition of issue 14 ....................£0.95

**DC601: ROBIN** (5 issue mini series) 2,3,4,5 ............... .....£0.30

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**DC605A: ROBIN III:** All six issues pack price.........................£0.95

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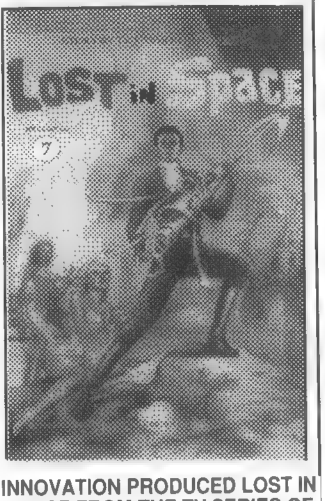
**DC615: SCARLETT** (Motor Bike Vampires) 1-14 .........................£0.35



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**Let's use this little space to give you some VIZ MANGA TITLES**

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**5,7,9 ............ £0.75**

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is a tryout book usually with 3 different strips in each issue: During 1993 and 1994 the lead story was firmly placed with the Batman stock of characters and venues. From the Joker to Blackgate prison, from Huntress to Catwoman, Showcase is an excellent title. For 1995 the Superman Family will rotate with the Bat Family, the first issue of Showcase 95 starred Supergirl.

**DC635: SHOWCASE 93**
6,7,9-12 .................... £0.75
**DC636: SHOWCASE 94**
1-6,10-12 .......... .....£0.90
**DC637: SHOWCASE 95**
US $2.50 No 1 ..........£0.90
2,3,4,5 ......................£1.25

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**DC's own reprints of Key Silver Age Comics**
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**DC639B: SHOWCASE 4**
(Flash)...........................£0.35
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(first Green Lantern) ......£0.35
**DC639E: HOUSE OF SECRETS 92**
(Swamp Thing) .............£0.35
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99..................................£0.35
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(Prestige)..................£0.95
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The first issue of Sovereign Seven is becoming available to us, currently at a premium therefore whilst they last we have limited quantities of issue 1 at ............. £1.75

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42,46,47 ...................£0.30
**DC671: STAR TREK**
(Classic - current series)
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**DC673: STAR TREK Annual** 3, 5 ..............£0.75
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No 2 Winter 94: Raise the Defiant by Ryan, Wozniak & Hollander.............. £1.50
**DC680: STAR TREK: The Next Generation: Shadow Heart** (New 4 issue mini series) $1.95 US £1.25 UK Warehouse 1,2,3,4 ...£0.80
**DC681X: STAR TREK:**
The Modala Imperative
1,2,4 .........................£0.60
**DC691X: STAR TREK:**
The Next Generation:
The Modala Imperative
2,3,4 .........................£0.60
**DC701: STAR TREK:** The Next Generation 25,28-
38,45,46,51-70 .........£0.75
71,72 ........................£1.25
**DC702: STAR TREK:** The Next Generation Annuals
4,5 .............:...........£1.25
**DC705: STAR TREK VI:**
Movie Special ...........£0.60
**DC707: STAR TREK:** The Next Generation Special
1994, 2 .....................£1.75
**DC708: STEEL** Born in the Reign of the Supermen John Henry Irons is a Man of Steel issues 1-14..£0.50
**DC708A: STEEL Annual 1** (Elseworlds)...........£0.95
**DC708B: STEEL:** Special intro pack issues 1,2,3,4,
set price.....................£0.95
**DC708C: STEEL:** Special Intro pack issues 5,6,7,8
set price.....................£0.95
**DC710D: STREET FIGHTER;** The Van Damm movie co-starring Kyle Minogue (wow) complete one shot story of the movie issue, complete in polybag with Trading Card US $2.95
Warehouse price ......£0.50
**DC715: SUPERBOY**
1 ...............................£0.95
2-15 .........................£0.50
This is the nineteen nineties incarnation of Superboy. Cloned in the Cadmus Laboratories he has a wicked haircut, wears a leather jacket over blue tights, is highly testosteroned and lives in Hawaii (which leads to lots of great girl in costume drawings, a superhero BAYWATCH.) A great fun book.
**DC715A: SUPERBOY Annual** 1 Elseworlds £0.95
**DC718: SUPERGIRL**
(4 issue mini series superbly crafted by Roger Stern) 1,2,3,4............£0.60

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JUSTICE MACHINE
To Do or Die

**COMICO's JUSTICE MACHINE. Could be coming back now that Comico are publishing again.**

COMICO PRODUCED SOME NEAT SUPERHERO BOOKS - HERE'S A PARTIAL LIST:
C051: JUSTICE MACHINE
1,3-9,24,25,29 ... £0.40
C050: JUSTICE MACHINE
4 issue Mini
2-4 ... £0.40
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... £0.40
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1,11,16,19,24 ... £0.40

**DC718A SUPERGIRL SET:** All four issues of the Supergirl mini series plus a copy of the giant sized oneshot Supergirl and Team Luthor. 5 comics at a set price of ............£1.95
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76-99 ........................£0.40
**DC721C: SUPERMAN 82**
Collectors Edition Prism
cover.........................£0.60
**DC721D: SUPERMAN 78**
Collectors
Die-cut edition ..........£0.50
**DC721E: SUPERMAN de luxe,** Landmark Issue 100 The Death of Clark Kent $3.50US, £2.50 UK,
Warehouse ...............£1.95
**DC722: SUPERMAN Annual** 4,5 ..............£0.50
6 Elseworlds ............£0.95
**DC723: SUPERMAN SPECIAL** (Simonson)...£0.50
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**DC729: LEGACY OF SUPERMAN** g/s
one shot....................£0.50
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4-9,11-16 .................£0.40
17 Doomsday Cameo.£0.95
21-25,27-44 .............£0.40
45 .............................£0.95
**DC731D:MAN OF STEEL**
Issue 22 Special Collectors Die-Cut
Edition ......................£0.50
**DC733: MAN OF STEEL**
ANNUAL 1,2.............£0.50
3 Elseworlds .............£0.95

### TEAM TITANS

is a spin off from New Titans which in turn had come out of Teen Titans. Add to that the New Teen Titans and all the other Titan and Teen Team type projects . . . ouch! don't ask me! It took me a year to realise that it wasn't a speech impediment. Teen to Team to Teen its no wonder the brain 'urts. Levity aside, Team Titans, with its 5 variant issue number ones (each 48 pages with a common story "Childhoods end" but each with a brand new 18 pager introducing each of the five new characters.) The ongoing series developed a huge range of super misfits all bent on temporal mismanagement/arrangement. Even if it did mean killing Donna's baby. The books were drawn by a wide range of artists including Adam Hughes (now wowing them in the aisles with "Ghost" from Dark Horse) on one of the five number ones. Get outa here! I'm not telling you which one. At our prices you should give 'em all a try:

**DC747: TEAM TITANS**
2-24 ..........................£0.40
The first issue of TEAM TITANS appeared in five different versions:
**DC747A**: Kilowatt .....£0.40
**DC747B**: Mirage.......£0.40
**DC747C**: Nightrider ..£0.40
**DC747D:** Redwing ...£0.40
**DC747E**: Terra .........£0.40
**DC748A: TEAM TITANS Annual** 1 ..................£0.60
**Annl** 2 (Elseworlds)..£0.95
**DC755: TITANS (1992) Sellout Special**........£0.50
**DC759A: TIMBERWOLF**
The Legion of Superheroes in a mini series
5 Issue Set ...............£1.25
**DC760: TRINITY** framing sequence for The Green Lantern/ Darkstars/L.E.G.I.O.N./ Crossover 1,2 ...........£0.60
**DC768: VALOR**
1-23 ..........................£0.35
**DC768A: VALOR:**
Special Reader pack. Full set of issues 1-18 inclusive
pack price .................£4.95
**DC811: WONDER WOMAN**
5,7,8,12,16,17,49,54,56,59
,62,64-67,69 .............£0.60
91-96 ...... .................£0.60
**DC822D: WORLDS COLLIDE 1** Summer Crossover where DC Superheroes and Mile-stone Superheroes meet as their world's merge. Deluxe Poly-bagged with Superhero clings to make your own cover: US $3.95 UK £2.50 Warehouse
price.........................£1.25
**DC831X: WORLD OF KRYPTON** 4 issue mini
series 2-3..................£0.30
**DC835: WORLD OF SMALLVILLE** (Mini
series)1-2 .................£0.30
**DC837: XENOBROOD**
1-6 ............................£0.40
**DC845: ZATANNA** (4 issue
series)1,2,3,................£0.50

### MILESTONE

(an independent multi-ethnic superhero line distributed by DC Comics)

Milestone is well worth a look at: Many of our customers & friends have picked up these books experimentally and stayed for the ride. Milestone offers an eclectic mix of inner city street life (American Style) with homeboys, drugs pushers, super derring do and teen angst. Add in an outerspace babe who grows up to be ICON, his sidekick, the pregnant Rocket, Xombi, the man who literally cannot die and Hardware, the black Iron Man and you have a richly diverse field of characters, plots and locations.

I haven't even mentioned Paris Island and the wholesale slaughter which leads to the formation of the Blood Syndicate or the black Deathwish right out of the Michael Winner stable.
Check 'em out.

**DC114: BLOOD SYNDICATE**
1-16,18-24 ................£0.35
**DC114C: BLOOD SYNDICATE No 1** Collectors edition
polybagged...............£0.50
**DC200 DEATHWISH:**
A New Milestone title which is suggested for Mature Readers: First seen in Hardware: Deathwish is one bad ass mutha... 1 US $2.50, UK £1.50,
Warehouse 1,2,3,4 .. £0.50
(age statement required)
**DC334 HARDWARE**
1-17,19-26 ................£0.35

mai
KAZUYA KUDO
RYOICHI IKEGAMI
7

IN OUR ECLIPSE SECTION YOU'LL FIND ECLIPSE/VIZ MANGA COMICS LIKE MAI THE PSYCHIC GIRL

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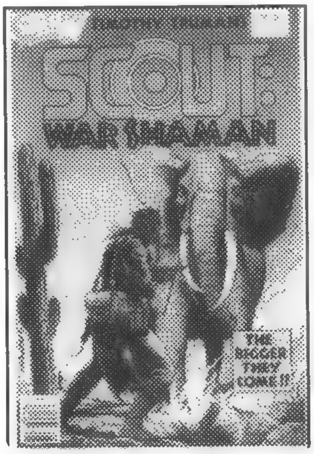

**SCOUT: WAR SHAMAN from Timothy (Vertigo Jonah Hex)**
**TRUMAN: Look in the Eclipse Section**

**DC334C:** Collectors edition of **HARDWARE 1** in polybag .................£0.50

**DC334E: HARDWARE** Issue 16 (48 pages) enhanced cover version US $3.95, UK £2.50. Warehouse price .....£0.75

**DC365: ICON** 1-14,17-23 ...............£0.35

**DC365C:**Collectors edition of **ICON 1** in polybag ..£0.50

**DC423: KOBALT** 1-10 ..........................£0.40

**DC643: SHADOW CABINET**
Issue Zero (48 pages).£0.60
Issue 1-10................£0.50

**DC709: STATIC** 1-13,15-2120 ............£0.35

**DC707C: STATIC 1** polybagged collectors edition......................£0.50

**DC838: XOMBI**
Issue Zero ................£0.60
Issue 1-11.................£0.40

### DC ZERO HOUR

The 1994 shake up of the entire DC Universe right across all the alternate realities and all time lines. Completely terminating many heroes and creating others: the crisis in Time Mini Series brought the disparate story lines together in a holocaust of enctropic forces created by one hero turned renegade. Subsequent Zero issues form a re-affirmation of the hero and a re-alignment for the 90's of their origin stories.

**DC850: Zero Hour Crisis in Time** 4,3,2,1,0 .....£0.60

**DC851: Action** 0**......£0.60**

**DC852: The Adventures of Superman** 0 ........£0.60

**DC853: Anima** 0 ......£0.60

**DC854: Aquaman** 0.£0.60

**DC855: Batman** 0....£0.60

**DC856: Batman: Legends of the Dark Night** 0 .....................£0.60

**DC857: Batman Shadow of the Bat** 0.............£0.60

**DC858: Catwoman** 0 ..............................£0.60

**DC859: Damage** 0 ...£0.60

**DC860: Darkstars** 0 £0.60

**DC861: Deathstroke** 0 ..............................£0.60

**DC862: Demon** 0.....£0.60

**DC863: Detective** 0 .£0.60

**DC864: Fate** 0..........£0.60

**DC865: Flash** 0........£0.60

**DC866: Green Arrow** 0 ..............................£0.60

**DC867: Green Lantern** 0 ..............................£0.60

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**DC876: Manhunter** 0 ..............................£0.60

**DC877: New Titans** 0 ..............................£0.60

**DC878: Outsiders** **0 ..............................£0.60**

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**DC882: Robin** 0.......£0.60

**DC883:Spectre** 0.....£0.60

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**DC886: Superboy** 0 £0.60

**DC887: Superman** 0£0.60

**DC888: Superman:** Man of Steel 0 ..........£0.60

**DC889: Wonder Woman** 0 ..............................£0.60

**DC890: Xenobrood** 0 ..............................£0.60

### VERTIGO & PRE-VERTIGO & OTHER MATURE TITLES

you **must** be over 16 to order these books

Vertigo is a relatively new imprint at DC. The imprint was formed to publish contemporary and horror fiction using complex themes particularly suited for a more thoughtful and discerning audience. Along with not so standard horror fiction Vertigo explores relationships, alienation, social structure, confused sexual identity, and freudian and jungean archetypes side by side with entertaining fantasy and adventure stories.

If you have the impression that Vertigo is a recommended range of books, you are absolutely right. We start the section with a strange one:

**DC39: AMERICAN FREAK:** Remember ARCANE and the UN-MEN from Swamp Thing, both contemporary and all the way back to Wein & Wrightson issues. American Freak is a nineties vision of a young man born of Un-Man. We're offering issue one at a Special Introductory Price of just 30p, followed by issues 2 to 5 at the usual 60p. At 30p for issue one, give experimental reading a try.American Freak: 5 issues mini series
1 ..............................£0.30
2-5. ..........................£0.60

**DC41: ANIMAL MAN** 35-55, 57-81 ............£0.50

**ANIMAL MAN:** The story of Buddy who has animal powers, his family, their interaction with the ecology of the planet and the dynamics of social structure from "The Red" to a lesbian commune: To introduce you to the Animal Man Series we've put together some special introductory packs.

**DC41B: ANIMAL MAN:** issues 40-44 all 5 issues for a set price of .......£1.75

**DC41C: ANIMAL MAN:** Issues 45-50. All 6 issues for a set price of .......£1.95 (issue 40 through 50 are all written by Tom Veitch and the majority of issues drawn by Steve (Hell-blazer) Dillon). Jamie Delano took on the writing assignment with issue 51, taking the title in even weirder directions).

**DC41D: ANIMAL MAN:** Issues 57-61 all 5 issues at a set price of.........£1.75

**DC41E: ANIMAL MAN:** Issues 62-66 all 5 issues at a set price of.........£1.75

**DC41F: ANIMAL MAN:** Issues 67-71 all 5 issues at a set price of.........£1.75

**DC41G: ANIMAL MAN:** Issues 72-76 all 5 issues at a set price of.........£1.75

**DC41A: ANIMAL MAN** Annual 1 part of the Children's Crusade...£1.50

**DC108: BLACK ORCHID** 1-20 ..........................£0.60

**DC108A: BLACK ORCHID:** Intro Pack: Issues 1-6 Special pack price ....£1.95

**DC111X: BLACK HAWK:** (New format Mature readers series) 1-14,16 ....................£0.40

**DC113: BLACKHAWK: Blood and Iron.** Prestige series by Howard Chaykin 1,2 ...........................£0.75

**DC125: THE BOOKS OF MAGIC** 1 .................£1.50
3,4,5,6,7 ..................£0.95

**DC161: CHILDREN'S CRUSADE:** 68 page, 2 issue framing series by Niel Gaiman & Chris Bachalo featuring Charles Rowland and Edwin Payne the dead boy detectives from Sandman 25 who are joined by Maxine (Animal Man) Suzy (Orchid) Tefe (Swamp Thing) Dorothy (Doom Patrol) & Tim Hunter (Books of Magic) in the Vertigo Annuals event crossover of 1993
1,2 ...........................£1.95

**DC189: DEADMAN:** Exorcism: 2 part prestige series drawn by Kelley Jones, brilliant stuff
1 ..............................£1.50

**DC197: DEATH:** (Mini series) The High Cost of Living 1 ...................£0.80

**DOOM PATROL:** If you want weird, totally off the wall, brain bending out of this universe writing and artwork; stuff that makes you go back to it again and again to find out what's really going on, then Doom Patrol is for you. A title far too strange for the mainstream, its now unhappily been cancelled. I loved it (when I understood it). The series threw out so many good ideas that I can see writers mining the back issues of Doom Patrol in a couple of year's time and then being feted for launching "brand new, gosh/wow" concepts, but you and I will know where they came from.

In line with our policy of accessability we hope that we have made our two Doom Patrol packs totally irresistible.

**DC231: DOOM PATROL** 39,43-87 ..................£0.50

**DC231A: DOOM PATROL** Issues 50-57 inclusive All 8 issues at a set price of ..............................£1.75

**DC231B: DOOM PATROL** Issues 69-76 inclusive All 8 issues at a set price of ..............................£1.75

**D231D: DOOM PATROL** Annual 2 part of the Children's Crusade in which Dorothy meets the Wild Girls US $3.95 UK £2.50 - Warehouse..£1.50

**DC251: EXTREMIST** (4 issue series) 1,4 .......£0.50

**DC282: BROTHERPOWER The Geek** 1 .............£0.40

**DC282B: GHOST DANCING:** The new Delano, Case six issue mini series 1,2 ......£0.60
3,4..................................£0.95

**DC291X: GREEN ARROW** 1,3-7,10-34,36,38-40, 45,47,49-51 .............£0.40

**DC291: GREEN ARROW** 46,53-62 ...................£0.40

**DC292X: GREEN ARROW Annual 1,2,3**..................£0.40

**HELLBLAZER**

The adventures of John Constantine, a modern Mage with connections above and below that he does not really want but finds useful and at times necessary as he encounters various evil beings including the Fallen One.

Constantine is a magnet for trouble, his friends are usually the ones who get hurt. The stories range from the supernatural to racism, from ghostly encounters to vampirism and all shades of the diaboique in between.

**DC351: HELLBLAZER**
14-16,17 ...................£1.95
47-50 ........................£0.50
61,63,65-70 ..............£0.90
71-88 ........................£0.75
89,90 ........................£1.35

**DC351B: HELLBLAZER:** Issues 69-73 inclusive. All 5 comics at a set price of ..............................£2.95

**DC351C: HELLBLAZER:** Issues 74-78 inclusive. All 5 comics at a set price of ..............................£2.95

**DC351D: HELLBLAZER:** Issues 79-83 inclusive. All 5 comics at a set price of ..............................£2.95

**DC372: INVISIBLES**
1 ..............................£1.75
2-8 ...........................£0.90
9-10 .........................£1.50

**DC375: JONAH HEX Two Gun Mojo** 4,5...........£0.60

**DC376: JONAH HEX:** Riders of the Worms and Such. More western horror will this be the next big genre fashion?
Issue 1 ....................£0.95

**DC422: KID ETERNITY** Kid Eternity was first launched in a sought after 3 issue prestige mini series which proved popular enough to resurrect him in his own monthly book. Kid Eternity is deceased: his skill is in resurrecting the dead, his mission uplifting humanities consciousness: his act, not altogether - the series lasted 16 months. (Current) 1-16...........£0.60

**DC422A: KID ETERNITY** Full set of all sixteen issues - pack price....£4.95

**DC422B: KID ETERNITY:** Issues 1,2,3. All 3 issues at a set price of.........£0.95

**DC442C: KID ETERNITY:** Issues 5,6,7. All 3 issues at a set price of.........£0.95

**DC442D: KID ETERNITY:** Issues 8,9,10. All 3 issues at a set price of.........£0.95

**DC442E: KID ETERNITY:** Issues11,12,13. All 3 issues at a set price of ..............................£0.95

**DC424: THE LAST ONE** (6 issue series) 1-6...£0.60

**DC469: LOBO**: A Contract on Gawd 1,2,3,4 .......£0.80

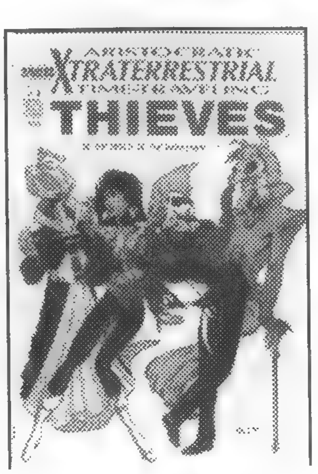
**DC469A: LOBO A CONTRACT ON GAWD,** Full set of four issues, pack price .................£1.75

**DC473: LOBOS BACK** (4 issues series)
1,3,4 ........................£0.60

**DC474: LOBO** Blazing Chain of Love: Don't forget your condoms. (one shot) ...............£0.60

**DC476: LOBO** Infanticide (4 issue series) 1-4...£0.60

**DC476A: LOBO** Infanticide: set of four issues pack price......£1.50



**From Dave Kraft comes the weird and wonderful Aristocratic Xtra Terrestrial Time Travelling Thieves.**

**EC213:ARISTOCRATIC X TRATERRESTRIAL TIME TRAVELLING THIEVES:**

A well produced black & white intergalactic space adventure with long legged babes and loadsa aliens.

**EC213:** Let's shorten it to **X-Thieves** (as did the publisher later)
1 - 11 .. £0.40

**EC214: X-Thieves Micro Series**
1 of 1 .. £0.40

**EC215: X-Thieves Graphic Album**
1 ... £0.95

**DC505: MOBFIRE**
New title by Gary Ushaw and Warren Pleece: The Godfather meets black magic in modern London. 6 Issue mini series. Overlooked by many when first published a few months ago, we can now offer issues 1 & 2 of Mobfire at the staggeringly low entry point of just ......50 p each!
1,2 ............................£0.50
3 ...............................£0.95
4-6 ............................£1.25

**DC506: MOONSHADOW**
4,5,6,7,9,10 ..............£1.25

**DC511: Ms.TREE:**
4,7,8,9,10 .................£0.40

**DC521: THE NAZZ:**
(4 issue series)
Art by Brian Talbot
Prestige, 1 ................£0,95
3,4 ...........................£0.60

**DC551: OMAC**
Four issue prestige black & white series by John Byrne
2,3,4 .........................£0.50

*Please remember to use the correct computer code on your order to enable us to go to the right pick bins.*

**DC611: SANDMAN by Neil Gaiman** More superlatives and accolades have been heaped on the Sandman Series than you could shake a planet at. Gaiman has consistently maintained a high standard in story telling whilst being complemented by a range of talented artists. The Sandman is an excellent reading and visual experience and comes highly recommended.. Issues available are:
32-45 ........................£1.25
47-67 ........................£0.90
Even though Sandman is one of the best selling Vertigo titles, we'd like to extend our mandate (to bring you good inexpensive reading) to SANDMAN reader packs as well.

**DC611A: SANDMAN**
32-37 The six part story line "A Game of You" A haunting story of the Cuckoo & The Transexual All six issues at a set price of ..............................£5.95

**DC611B: SANDMAN:** 38-39,43,44,45 All five issues at a set price of.........£4.95

**DC611C: SANDMAN:** 47,48,49,50. The ending of "Brief Lives" and the very special issue 50 "Ramadan" in which the Caliph of Baghdad bargains with Morpheus. Superbly and elegantly illustrated by P. Craig Russell. All 4 issues at a set price of.........£2.95

**DC611D: SANDMAN:** 51-56: The Inn at Worlds End. A six issue tale of tales in which a miscellany of characters from legend, faerie, the past and the present and in between, entertain each other with life stories whilst a cosmic time storm rages. All six issues at a special set price of.................... £3.95

**DC611E: SANDMAN:** Issue 57, started the penultimate story arc of the Sandman Series: The Kindly Ones, is scheduled to run from issues 57 to 69, after which we get "The Wake" to be followed by two single titles with the final issue of The Sandman to be issue 75 "The Tempest" to be illustrated by Charles Vess. "The Kindly Ones" is developing as a seminal piece that will draw together many of the threads that Neil Gaiman has woven into the Sandman Mythos and the story of the Endless Family. We can now offer the first seven chapters of "The Kindly Ones" issues 57 - 63 inclusive at a single set price of £4.95 Quote our computer code DC611E when ordering your "Kindly Ones" pack. For those of you interested in Gaiman's writing, he recently collaborated with the rock'n roll legend Alice Cooper on his new album, and wrote the comic book "The Last Temptation/Alice Cooper" for Marvel which is in the Marvel Section.

**DC612X: THE SANDMAN SPECIAL** (1991) double sized issue with glow in the dark? cover. Title: "The Song of Orpheus".....£1.50

**DC612A: SANDMAN:** A Gallery of Dreams Morpheus as seen by many different artists US $2.95, UK £2.00
Warehouse........ ......£1.25

### SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE

**Is a special VERTIGO title chronicling America of the 1930's, and its attendant racial and class prejudices all contained within murder/crime mysteries in four issue story arcs starring Wesley Dodds, the Sandman of the time. Besides individual issues we can now offer the some specific story arcs as listed below:**

**DC613: SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE:**
Individual issues:
5-26 ..........................£0.60

**DC613B: SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE:**
Issue 5-8 'The Face' pack price..........................£1.65

**DC613C: SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE**
9-12 "The Brute' pack price..........................£1.65

**DC613D: Sandman Mystery Theatre** 13-16 "The Vamp" a story of deception, death and lesbian influences.
Pack price.................£1.65

**DC613E: SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE**
Issues 17-20 The Scorpion a tale of bizarre sex, business manipulation and murder - all four issues pack price .................£1.65

**DC613F: SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE**
Issues 21-24 "Dr Death": All four issues
pack price .................£1.65

**DC613S:SANDMAN MYSTERY THEATRE Annual** 1. A nine chapter story each by a different artist. US $3.95, UK £2.50.
Warehouse ...............£1.50

**DC614: SCARAB** Eight issue series:1-4 ........£0.60

**DC617: SEBASTIAN O**
3 Issue series very reminiscent of Jerry Cornelius. 1,2 ...........£0.60

**DC631: SHADE: The Changing Man.** Shade is an acquired taste of madness and once hooked your brain will never quite be the same again 19................£1.00
20-26,28........................£0.75
27,29-59........................£0.60
We can also offer the following SHADE story arcs for those of you who'd like to experiment with this fabulous menage a trois of Shade, Lenny & Kathy.

**DC631G:** 27-29 **SHADE** The Changing Woman + 30 Another Life + 31, 32 Ernest & Jim: (that's Hemmingway & Joyce guys). All six issues ..£2.95

**DC631H**: 33-35 Birth Pains, 36,37 Passion Child. All five issues .£2.45

**DC631J:** 38-41 Single connected stories plus 42-44 History Lesson All seven issues.............£2.95

**DC631K: SHADE** issues 45-50: "A Season in Hell" six parter in which Kathy gets pregnant and the Angels tell Shade to kill the child, Kathy's daughter shows up and Pandora stops being a statue: All six issues pack price £2.95

**DC631M: SHADE** issues 51-56 in which Shade goes on a pilgrimage to Meta, locks horns with the Devil & becomes a Disco floor. All six issues pack price.........................£2.95

**DC646: SHADOWS FALL**
(six issue mini series)
1,2,3,4,5 ....................£0.60

**DC649: SKIN GRAFT**
(4 issue series)
1,2,3 ..........................£0.60

**DC710 STREETS**
Prestige Mini Series by James D. Hudnall and Rob Ortaleza 1,2,3...........£1.25

**DC710A: All three issues of STREETS** at a pack price of..................... £2.75

**DC741: SWAMP THING**
114-119,121-124,
128-153 ......................£0.50

**DC741G: With issue 140 the Swamp Thing** title underwent a complete change of art team and direction.Grant Morrison (Invisibles, Enigma) with Mark Millar took over the writing with Phil Hester & Kim DeMulder on art. **To introduce you to the *new face of Horror* we've put together a special pack of issues 140 Vegetable Man, 141 Bad Gumbo, 142 Soul Train and 143 Desert Heart.**
All four issues at an unbelievable pack price ..85p

**DC741H:** and to continue the series we present **SWAMP THING** issues 144 to 149 inclusive all six issues at a special price of ............................ £1.65

**DC743: SWAMP THING Annual** 7 part of the Children's Crusade
just............................£0.95

**DC744: VERTIGO Sampler:** Colour sample Vertigo strips.........................£0.40

**DC745: TAINTED:** A $4.95 one shot, about drugs, voyeurism, kinky sex and mutilating insects in a depressingly claustrophobic atmosphere created by the writer. Not a nice book, but a must read .........................£2.75

**DC769: VAMPS:** six issue mini series by Elaine Lee & Will Simpson. A Quintet of Female Vampires rip their paramour apart and go on the rampage.
1-6 ...........................£1.50

**DC770X: V FOR VENDETTA**: project Britain forward into a totalitarian police state....
3-10 ..........................£0.30

**DC772: VERTIGO RAVE**
Fall 1994: Sneak Previews of upcoming strips including a new 6 page Books of Magic Story.
1 ..............................£0.50

**DC776: ABSOLUTE VERTIGO.** The latest Vertigo Sampler includes an all new Invisibles story
just...........................£0.50

**DC821X: WORLD WITHOUT END** by Jamie Delano and John Higgins
1,3,4 .........................£0.60

## MARVEL COMICS

*(The Avengers)*

Like the J.L.A. The Avengers as a team have had their high and low spots. The current storyline melding into the Malibu Ultraverse look set to put them back on track as one of the premiere groups of the nineties. And, at the prices we have the Avengers for, you could easily read all these excellent books before using them as fish & chip wrappers.
Ouch, that hurt!

OK so I committed heresy: Lemme explain: Comics are foremost, first and upfront, periodicals for reading. (I love collecting, same as you do, but I fear that collecting for the sake of collecting (rather than collecting what you enjoy) could be gaining the upper hand.) Our mission is to bring you readability. If it becomes a collectible for you then that's a bonus. Read first, collect second and use the low prices of The Warehouse to experiment with titles that you wouldn't normally consider.

Now take that tyre iron back outside, then come back in & read a book.

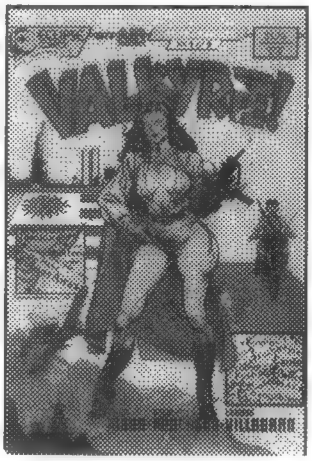
We have, when I last looked, some 10,000 copies of various Avengers numbers and titles, crying out to be read by people who just plain enjoy comics. Those delicious Perez pencils, Thor, The Beast (from X-Men), Vision, Ultron, Jocasta, Yellow Claw, Yellow Jacket, The Masters of Evil, Starfox. She Hulk... Hmm, I think I'll go back & read them myself, that is after I've finished reading my Doom Patrols with the LSD Bike, Number None, The Dadaists, Danny the Sentient Street and original art.

Wow there is a lot of good stuff in the world. Try some today: The Comics Warehouse really does offer you a smorgasboard of intel-lectual and four colour delight.

**M1: AVENGERS**
294-296, 298, 299,308, 309,317,339-348,350,352, 353,357-359 ..............£0.40
368 ............................£0.80
369 Giantsize ...........£1.25
370,371,378-389 ......£0.80

**M1A: AVENGERS**
King Size Annual
8,9,12,13 ..................£1.95

The Comics Warehouse



**If you think that Bad Girls are new check out VALKYRIE from our Eclipse Section**

JOHN BYRNE
DOOMSDAY SQUAD
FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

**CLASSIC EARLY JOHN BYRNE from Fantagraphics reprinting the original Charlton Comics**

EC216: NEGATIVE BURN
from Calibur
Black & White
and loved all over.
1- 8,10,14 ... £0.75

Let's add in a few more
off the wall
books to titillate your palate.

EC217: THOSE ANNOYING
POST BROS by Matt Howarth
(extremely twisted bad boys,
greedy, trigger happy, irritating
with the unfortunate
- for everybody else concerned,
- ability to shift between all
reality levels.
2,8,9,11-18,22,25,34-37
£0.40p

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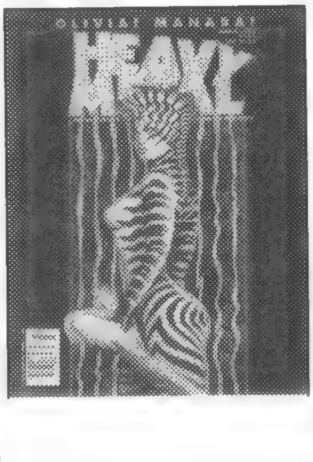

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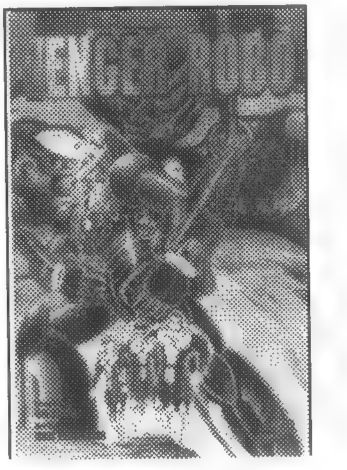

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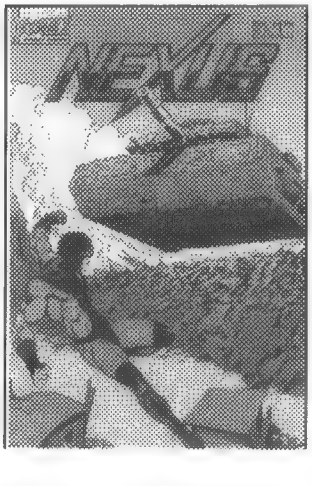

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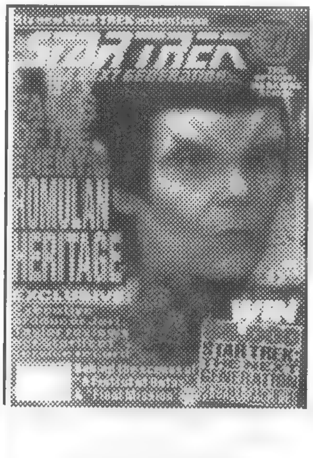

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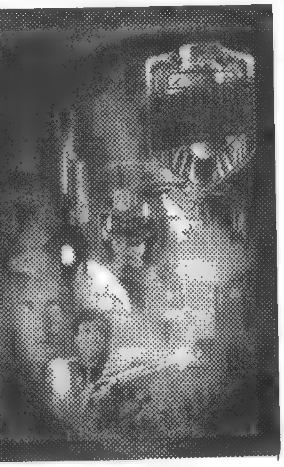

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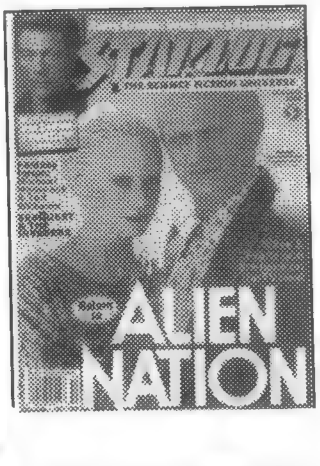

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*As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, but space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.*

## The traditional Casper

*Comment by Russel Harvey, New York*

I AM writing to comment on the new *Casper* movie, which is being produced by Universal Pictures and Steven Spielberg. Growing up, I enjoyed a special friendship with Casper. In a way, I even considered him to be a member of my family.

This is because my father, Alfred Harvey, who died last year, was probably the best friend Casper ever had. As the founder and president of Harvey Comics, my father was Casper's publisher and the producer of Casper's cartoon shows on television. My father worked with Casper for more than 35 years, until he sold his company in 1989.

The new *Casper* movie made me sad for my old friend. Aside from a vague physical resemblance, the Casper in this movie does not seem anything like the Casper I grew up with: the Casper I know and love. The graphic violence, obscene language, perverted characterisations and inappropriate plot devices (such as the introduction of a machine which literally brings the dead back to life) makes this film unsuitable for young children: the same children who, rightfully, should be Casper's best friends. The film is an insult to the wholesome traditions my father stood for as a leader in the field of children's entertainment.

The new *Casper* movie is rated PG. This is supposed to suffice as a warning to parents that "this film may not be suitable for young children". In this case, the letters PG will prove to be an insufficient warning to parents who wish to shield their young from objectionable material and who will inadvertently bring their children without even noticing the rating. This is because Casper's goodness and purity transcend Hollywood's rating system.

It is unbelievably foolhardy that the filmmakers chose to tamper with Casper's image. Whom can we trust any more, if we can no longer trust even Casper? Perhaps the producers have attempted to court an older (and presumably more lucrative) audience. They will find all they have done is tainted their product and confused the public.

Where else in our popular culture is there a character as innocent, friendly and nice as Casper? To rob Casper of these virtues is an experiment which, I am sure, will go down in history as about a thousand times as stupid as the introduction of "New Coke". To take Casper away from his young friends is reminiscent of the schoolyard bully who taunts younger children by stealing their "babyish" toys, only to play with the toys himself.

The character of Casper in this movie is so far off-base that one must wonder if he is an imposter. An important reason that so many young children love Casper is that he is their own age. Children identify with Capser because he is frozen in the same period of latency that they live in. (And this is why, in our nostalgia, grown-ups keep a warm spot in our hearts for early childhood friends like Casper.)

The Casper that I know has always offered friendship with no strings attached. He gives love unconditionally, and, in the safety of that relationship, children feel free to give unconditional friendship in return. That has been a magnificent part of his appeal. In this movie, however, Casper is clearly looking for much more than just friendship from his new friend, a young girl. After assuming a human form (which diminishes him of myth and magic), he consummates their relationship with a deeply romantic kiss. And, in perhaps the single most out-of-character statement in the history of film, Casper boasts, "There's a girl on my bed — Yes!"

It was a foolish mistake to change Casper from his proper age, in early childhood, to that of a lustful, prankish, adolescent 12-year-old. The producers have even advertised this twisted new version of Casper with words like, "disgusting" and "atrocious"! These words, and others, such as "greedy" and "shameless", might apply to the filmmakers, but it is tragic that they should ever be associated with Casper. For generations, Casper has needed but one adjective to describe him: friendly.

Most foolish, and troubling, is that the filmmakers have chosen to give a literal explanation of what it means for Casper to be a ghost. In the movie, Casper is nothing but a dead little boy. Never before, in the history of the character, was reference ever made to what Casper was "before he became a ghost". Are the filmmakers to suggest that, in a child's imagination, someone like Casper cannot simply be born a ghost? Furthermore, the filmmakers offer an entire biography of what Casper's life as a human being was like, including the sad details of his death. Due to this clumsy, uncreative, literal dissection of the myth, more of the magic and metaphor of the character is lost.

A child needn't be told Casper is a "dead little boy". Each child should arrive at an interpretation of Casper that is unique to his or her own needs. To a very young child, a ghost need only represent someone who is different and unrightfully feared. Another child may come to the conclusion that the surface values of being a ghost, for which Casper is feared, are irrelevant compared to the inner values of giving friendship and performing good deeds, as Casper does. Still, another child may find the reality that, when a person is bereft of friends (as Casper is, at the beginning of his stories) he is invisible — like a ghost. Only when

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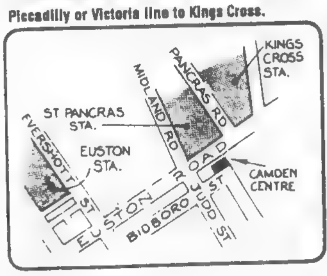

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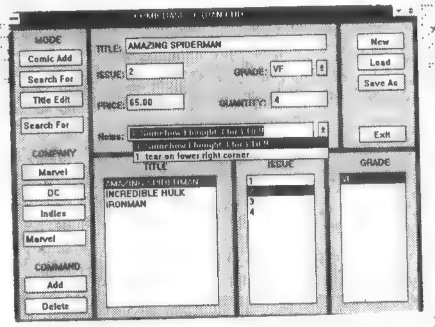

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he is able to connect with another, by making a friend (as Casper does), does one become real (as Casper is to a child with an imagination). Clever children realize that making friends with Casper represents the ability to make friends with, or conquer, one's fears — one of life's most important lessons.

Many children have used Casper's lessons to help them along in their social development. What child, confronted with the prospect of leaving the safety of mother and father, such as on the first day of school, has not perceived the outside world as full of scary creatures, such as monsters and ghosts? Meeting Casper (in his comic books and cartoons) teaches children that not all the strangers they encounter will be scary. Many will be friendly, like Casper. (This is another reason it is essential that Casper always remains the same age as his young friends. There are, after all, some scary, "bad" adults in the world, as represented by the Ghostly Trio.) Still, children must learn that other children, particularly children their own age, are appropriate playmates.

Casper teaches a complementary lesson. Who among us, child and adult alike, does not at some point feel unjustly feared? Casper's example, of making friends even with those who are initially unfriendly to him, is an exercise in perseverance we can all learn from. At a time in our history when fear of strangers threatens our security even within our borders, it is essential to our survival that we follow Casper's lead and try not to be afraid of those who are different or those who are afraid of us.

It is distressing that a filmmaker as gifted as Steven Spielberg could be associated with a project that is as misdirected as this new *Casper* movie. If anyone were to tell Casper's story, Spielberg would seem to be an ideal choice. After all, is not *E.T.*, Spielberg's most famous film, an homage to Casper? (I vividly remember pointing out to my father that Henry Thomas, as Elliot in *E.T.*, carries a Casper Halloween bag.)

Although I am hurt by this new film, I would choose, as Casper would, to offer my friendship to Spielberg. As a friend, I would urge this great filmmaker to do the right thing and immediately withdraw this current version of *Casper* from distribution. (I don't think it's going to make a whole lot of money in its present form, anyway.) I would urge my new friend to admit that even great filmmakers make an occasional mistake (which should be another lesson from which we all could learn). Then I would suggest to Spielberg that he go back to the drawing board and either fix this *Casper* movie or make a new one from scratch.

Make a Casper movie that will delight and entertain all audiences, especially Casper's youngest friends. My last suggestion would be to remember this: The true magic of Casper cannot be represented by special effects like flying through the air, walking through walls, turning invisible, or morphing into an infinite variety of shapes. The true magic of Casper is the special effect that Casper's friendship has on a child's heart.

# How to draw women the Image way

***Comment by Mark Kirwan-Heyhoe, North Thamesmead***

RECENTLY, a friend told me that the reason why my small press comic will never sell in large quantities is because the women I draw aren't beautiful enough. So I decided to check out the professionals and see how they did their women in the hope that I could learn from them — and seeing how Image is touted as having many of the best artists, I looked at a few issues. Here is what I discovered (moving from top to toe).

1) Hair. Image women all have very long hair (apart from the ones who look as though they've just left the marines). The hair is usually blonde, wavy and never gets entangled or knotted. Although it flows freely during constant punch-ups with the opposition, male Image villains never grab hold of it (how very sporting!). After one of these fights, it never appears matted or dense; Image women obviously do not sweat on the top of their head. Therefore, when you are drawing Image womens' hair, sketch an upside-down bonfire (without sticks).

2) Faces. Image women have elfin faces. They have cheekbones that start somewhere around their temples; lips that have been smeared with vaseline and injected with collagen and small earlobes. Their eyes are usually blue or green — and range in proportion from enormous to even more enormous. Eyelashes are long; eyebrows are perfectly plucked and Image women never have excess fat under their chins or bags under their eyes (despite lack of sleep). When Image women are not kicking the stuffing out of the opposition they are obviously getting face massages/lifts. To draw one of these faces, take a late Victorian painting of fairies, add one pair of steam-pressed ears and Marilyn Monroe's lips.

3) Breasts. Image women all have big, round, firm breasts. In fact, some Image women have breasts so large it would be physically impossible to walk without stooping — yet they never complain about aching shoulders and backs. Surprisingly, Image womens' breasts do not wobble about awkwardly when they are leaping through the air to deliver a flying kick. Obviously they have had shock absorbers inserted. When drawing Image womens' breasts, imagine a bowling ball made of lightweight steel.

4) Fingernails. Image women have perfect fingernails. Often, these are very long. Despite the difficulty of clenching one's fists with nails like this, Image women manage to do it. I have not yet seen an Image woman with a broken nail after a fight, but I'm sure this does occur. No doubt Image women have their nail extensions replaced at the same time they are getting their faces massaged. When drawing nails, make sure they are pointed, Image women do not play the guitar!

5) Bodies. Image women all have very long bodies. Their bodies are so long in fact, that they resemble a stretched twiglet. However, their

musculature and egg-timer waists suggest they work out a lot. To achieve this look, Image women should be drawn as if they have just stepped off a torturer's rack and then fed large quantities of steroids.

6) Legs. Image women — unlike the rest of the human race — have legs that are twice the length of their bodies. This should be remembered when drawing an Image woman — for if the budding artist starts drawing the head first, they will find they have run out of paper before they've reached an image woman's kneecaps. Having worked out the proportions, the average Image woman is approximately 6'7" in height — making the average Image man approximately 7'3".

7) Feet. Image women all have small feet. Ballet classes are therefore a must for Image women, as they have to be able to stand on one toe while carrying bazooka-like guns. Feet should always be drawn as vague wedge-shaped blocks on the end of the legs, about the size of a small child's. The artist may find this disconcerting, for when the entire body is done, it will be immediately obvious that an Image woman's ankles would break as soon as she stood up. Just ignore this.

Following my own instructions, I ended up with a drawing which took me just over 30 minutes (including inking). Therefore, one could produce an Image-like comic in approximately five days. For backgrounds, add clear skies and tree silhouettes for day panels; dark alleys with one loose-lidded trashcan for night. If you have to include other characters, draw them again in silhouette and grinning with shiny white teeth. Eyes should be slitted if villains, slightly less slitted if heroes. Make sure you give panels a zappy border. For dialogue and captions, take one Chris Claremont X-Men comic and change names and places.

Alternately, draw women in a non-Image style. You'll be poorer and won't sell half a million copies — but neither will you be fuelling impossible and unobtainable desires amongst adolescents.

## Let's treat retailers seriously

*Comment by Warren Zajac, Crowthorp, Northampton.*

AS THE partner in a record shop, I decided that with the amount of space I had, opening a comic section would be a relatively low cost exercise.

In the past, I have always bemoaned retailers as being the main reason why comic shops are such a culture shock to the uninitiated. I have often blamed the man behind the counter as the reason I haven't got what I wanted.

I was ignorant of the trials and tribulations that Mr. Retailer faced when attempting to run a professional business in the face of such psuedo-professionals.

That was until I tried to do run such a business for myself.

Let me explain a few minor points about why I feel that the comics industry is run by the most fascistic of rules and regulations: When a major new record launch from Michael Jackson or U2 or REM is due, many weeks beforehand the representatives of the companies handling distribution pay us a visit and supply us - free of charge - with posters, mobiles, flyers, wall-mounts, and such, to successfully advertise the latest releases.

Even small bands, with little chance of major chart success, get more exposure through the music publicity machines than the most prestigious of new comic launches.

With many new record releases a minimum order is required on a firm sale, but any amount stocked over the minimum become returnable (SoR, sale or return). But arguably, no promotion is necessary when you're talking about some of hottest artists in the world!

Ah! But the record industry is so much bigger than the comic book industry. The cost of a single is far more than the cost of a comic. So what? The recording industry accepts with open arms the fact that it is the retailer who ultimately pays a large percentage towards their riches and the riches of the artists who they represent.

The record industry is not free from criticism, there are sure to be retailers in my industry who feel that they are hard-done-by. Part of this is their inadequacies as retailers in general. Being an amateur in a professional business garners only financial heartache.

In an attempt to see what promotional material I could get from publishers and distributors, I was mortified to discover that if you want anything more than the basics, you had to pay for it! I don't know a single industry where YOU have to pay to sell (and promote) someone else's product. What's more, when my partner and I started our record shop, we could contact the major record companies direct. We could ask questions, however naive and would get helpful, informative and well meaning replies. Contact any of the distributors or publishers in the comics industry and very few are even willing to talk to you. I can understand economic shyness, especially in the wake of so many comic retailing casualties, but surely new business should be eagerly encouraged. It is almost as if the retailer has the least important opinion in the chain from punter to publisher.

The bottom line is that we have decided that stocking comics is far too risky. There is little or no support from suppliers or publishers. Information is so limited that the phrase "ordering blind" takes on a whole new perspective and despite the magnitude of the industry, any potential shop owner seems to have to run a gauntlet of humiliation before he will be heard. I found both Marvel and DC to be completely off-hand, even the marketing and direct sales people really didn't seem to give a toss. Was this because I'm British or is it a common occurance? I can honestly say that one of the UK's leading distributors treated me like a half-wit. I've owned and run a record shop for seven years! What must it be like for some poor sod who decides to sink his redundancy money into a comic shop?

I'd just like to finish by saying that unless the distributors start treating potential comic shops seriously, when the existing ones have gone there won't be many or any to replace them. Independent comic

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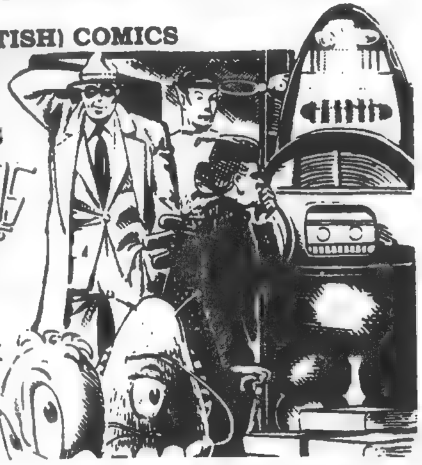

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shops will remain firmly rooted in the Dark Ages, regardless of how much profit they make, unless the people who supply them — the smug I'm-all-right-Jack type who instantly look down their noses at you because you read comics — start treating serious people in a serious manner.

## The quest for *Knightsend*

***Comment by P. Douglas, Bethnal Green, London***

HAVING stopped regular comic collecting back in 1982, I occasionally return to the fold when something of interest grabs my attention.

Such was the case with *The Dark Knight Returns*, *Watchman*, and more recently with *Knightfall* — the latter being my first venture into trade paperbacks.

Having collected parts I and II back in '93, and having endured an 18-month wait for the next installment, I purchased a copy of the *Knightsend* trade paperback.

Things were going fine until page seven, when Bruce Wayne walks in — yes, walks! I immediately checked my copy of *Knightfall* — had I really forgotten that much? No, I wasn't mistaken, Bruce Wayne *is* wheelchair-bound.

So when/how did he recover? A quick call to a comic shop told me I hadn't missed any books in the series, but that there had been a 12-issue mini-series called *Knightquest*, which had run between *Knightfall* and *Knightsend* (old news to some of you, no doubt).

Luckily, a friend loaned me the *Knightquest* series (thanks, Mark) so I could fill in the gaps.

Now, this may seem picky, but I would have thought that the death of Abbotoir, Alfred resigning and Bruce Wayne's recovery from a broken back would be important plot points. Could DC really believe no one would notice they'd been overlooked?

If regular comic collectors think they are sometimes treated badly, it would appear that trade paperback buyers are regarded as having the collected intelligence of pond life.

I can see no logic in printing a book of *Knightsend* without the key *Knightquest* installment.

## The writer's lot, or lack thereof

***Comment by Carl Bateman, Stoke-on-Trent***

CRUMBS! Who would've thought the recent "just what the hell are publishers looking for in writers and their submissions" *Comment* thread would last so long? There must be more budding writers out there than I'd thought.

I find myself echoing many of the sentiments expressed about the lack of useful information and support available. However, in response to Alan Booth's letter, might I suggest that a little research wouldn't go amiss (something any writer worth his salt should already know), "house guidelines" *are* available for many (if not all) publishers. Either contact the regular publisher or the Comic Creators Guild (7, Dilke Street, London SW1) who can supply a Guidelines Pack providing the guidelines of many UK and US publishers, obviating the need of writing several dozen letters and saving on postage.

It does seem that a writer is more likely to win the lottery than break into comics, few comic companies place a high priority on assessing new unsolicited talent. After all, if some writer gets snapped up by Image (hah!) or comes to his senses, sees comic writing for the sweat shop it truly is, and goes to live on a kibbutz, there's a sea of wannabe replacements they can just dip into.

More pragmatically, editors are human beings (despite the horns, tail and cloven hooves) and are prone to human weaknesses. More specifically, they have limited time and resources. Since they're trying to get the latest issue of the Derivative X-Clone out on time, or attending conventions, or down the pub, or eating, or whatever, they don't have that much spare time to evaluate unsolicited material. If the editor does get a minute or two free, he'll flick through the submissions pile and if something catches his eye that fits a niche, you're in. Otherwise, for the writer, it's back to the hard slog, hoping the bastards will at least send a rejection slip.

Unlike books, comics are created by a committee, a writer can expect to work with at least one artist and probably an inker, colourist and letterer, too. To keep on top of this diversity of contributors, publishers adopt their own specific guidelines. Since each publisher has their own particular requirements of style, content and approach (these can vary from title to title, and even week to week), there is little standardisation between company guidelines.

For the writer, the dearth of useful information is incredibly frustrating (not to mention the lack of constructive feedback). While there is a plethora of material about writing in general (*The Writer's & Artist's Yearbook* and *The Writer's Yearbook* being two particularly excellent examples), specific information about comic writing is very thin on the ground.

In fact, there is so little information available that upon seeing the book *A Writer's Guide to the Business of Comics* (by Lurene Haines, £6.50, Starbur Press, ISBN: 0-941613-64-X) I snatched up the thing with nary a thought. Its 160-odd pages include chapters covering *An Overview of the Industry*, *The Writing Work*, *Preparing Your Samples*, *Approaching Potential Employers* and *How To Be A Good Businessman*.

Specifically aimed at the US writer and market, some of the information is irrelevant to the UK writer (US based courses), some border on the frivolous (be sure to clean your teeth and have a wash before meeting an editor) and some will only be of interest to the established pro.

However, much of the information is pertinent and there are profiles and quotes from the pros.

When all is said and done, it's all there is.

The advance listings and the major publishers' index in Comics

**International** are useful, but a single authoritative source of that and other relevant up-to-date information would be invaluable (the main strength of *A Writer's Guide...* is that it collects together much of the information that is available from many different sources, but it cannot be updated). Unfortunately, most publishers don't seem disposed to contributing to such a scheme, and with well over 40 publishers to keep track of, it becomes very expensive for someone to start ringing around (if **Comics International** is interested in employing someone for such a purpose, consider this to be my application).

Sadly, the bottom line is that the present system works well enough for the publishers, so they have no incentive to change.

It is interesting to note that certain titles written by editors are summarily cancelled once said editors depart. Far be it from me to accuse anyone of self-serving, self-aggrandisement, but if the writer/strip had any merit (commercial or otherwise), surely they wouldn't be cancelled before the sales figures were in? Perhaps, after all is said and done, the best way to break into writing comics is to become an editor (of course, how to achieve that elevated status opens a whole different can of worms).

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go and work on my rejection slip collection.

## Don't pigeon-hole me!

***Comment by Mike Kidson, Liverpool***

I'D JUST like to assure D. R. Booth (*Comment*, **Comics International** #57) that I'm not the kind of independents or small press-only lover who is stalking the streets of Liverpool bearing a copy of **Cerebus** with his name on it.

In fact, he's much more likely to bump into me down at the local newsagent on the first Monday of every month, buying a few DC and Marvel comics. I hope he won't be too shocked to learn that I buy them for reading pleasure, not for the satisfaction of reassuring myself that they're all shite...

Can I make something very clear? I like comics. All kinds of comics. I'm fascinated by the innumerable ways in which words and drawings can be combined to create a narrative. I like some comics more than others — consequently I can respect D. R.'s preference for superhero comics — but I've yet to come across a comic that I hated reading.

So why do I review small press comics more often than any other kind? There are two answers to that. The first is that there's a lot of experimentation with the possibilities of the medium that's going on in the small press — not just by people developing their own styles and methods, although there's plenty of that, but by people trying out new formats, new narrative methods.

Given that the core of my enjoyment of comics is an interest in how they work, it follows that I find the small press output more exciting than that of the big publishers, for whom narrative experimentation is restricted by many considerations — the assumption that if a technique works you should continue to use it rather than try to develop it — being just one.

The second is that the small press *needs* the promotion and, as someone who finds it exciting, it seems appropriate to me to do some promoting. I'm not trying to ram it down anyone's throats, I'm simply trying to remind people that it exists and that someone enjoys it, so others might too. If D. R. considers this to be a distasteful attempt to influence others' tastes, I assume that he's absolutely revolted by the promotional activities of DC and Marvel, beside which the scribblings of a few small press/indie reviewers in **Comics International** pale into total insignificance.

Nevertheless, he's right — those few small press reviews do attempt to influence people's tastes, as much as mass advertising campaigns do, if hardly as effectively. That's the problem with writing *about* things — as soon as you move beyond impartial reportage towards opinion you run the risk of influencing others. In this instance the result has been a good one — D. R. has been provoked to speak out in defence of his right to prefer superhero comics, while I have felt obliged to respond in defence of my right to prefer the small press.

But it's a pity that either of us should have thought it necessary to speak up for the fundamental and inalienable right to our own opinions.

On to another subject which has featured prominently in recent issues: It's a shame that the review of **Killer Fly #1** was amongst the bundle of stuff that the Post Office lost, it's absence did enable Chris Butler to make some fair points in a pretty reasonable sort of way. I agree with him that some sort of indie magazine is required, given the sheer amount of material in that area currently around.

**Battleground** might have filled the gap — but **BG** only sold a few hundred copies per issue. This is a problem that its editor Andy Brewer, along with myself and others have been wrestling with for a few years, to no avail. It isn't the job of **Comics International** or **Comics World** to specialise in indie coverage — and the indie audience, seemingly, isn't large, or coherent, or interesting enough, to make a specialist mag catering to their interests a paying proposition. But maybe it's early years — it wasn't that long ago when British comics fans relied on amateur publications like **Fantasy Advertiser**, **BEM** and **Comic Media News**.

Hell, it isn't even so long ago that the site now occupied by Comics Showcase in Oxford was a municipal restaurant where I ate my school dinners, and the idea of a shop selling nothing but comics would have seemed like a very weird dream.

So while I'm fully sympathetic with Chris's frustrations as a creator, and aware of the fact that in some ways the growing diversity of comics available has outstripped the resources of the retail network (they're going to have enough problems with Marvelution), I'm confident that the indie niche market will grow and that a coverage

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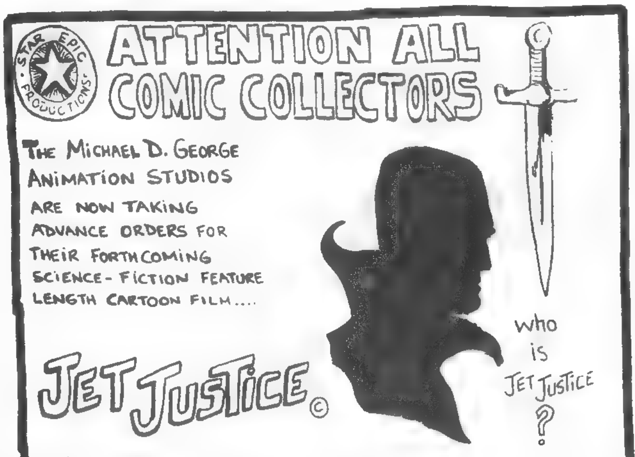

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network will grow with it. Rome wasn't built, etc...

Why am I telling you all this? You know it already!

# A question of taste

***Comment by Reuben Willmott, Ipswich***

I WOULD like to pick up on two comments from last issue.

Firstly, D. R. Booth: Imagine going into the only record shop in town to discover it only sells a type of music you can't stand. So imagine how I feel walking into the only comic shop in town to discover its wall-to-wall superhero/media tie-in comics, with perhaps a token independent non-superhero title hidden in a corner.

It's a question of choice.

We seemingly have our tastes dictated to by people who are Marvel/DC's wet dream. And I quote D. R. Booth: "...it is just as easy to try a different superhero comic as it is to spend money on an *untried and untested concept*" (my italics). If most comic fans think like that, then it would explain the lack of adventure and why nothing changes, nothing progresses in the comic industry.

Before I'm accused of being self-righteous, I do enjoy the occasional **Batman** comic and plan to buy **Skull Kill Krew** when it comes out. I, however, prefer a varied diet — just the same as with my music tastes — and it would be nice if my tastes were catered for. Rather than asking for a comic not published by the major four (or so), only to be told something along the lines of "we don't stock indies as they don't sell," while he gloomily stares at piles of unsold Marvel and DC comics too awful he couldn't even give them to a charity shop. Perhaps I should read more books. Choice certainly isn't a problem there.

This kind of brings me onto Chris Butler rightly bemoaning the fact that his very good **Killer Fly** comic has been ignored. It reminds me of the criminal injustice suffered by one of the finest graphic novels of last year, **Illegal Alien** (Kitchen Sink Press). Underneath a dire cover is Phil Elliot's finest artwork to date along with a touching story by James Robinson. It got a fair amount of coverage by your good selves and **Comic World** before it came out, but after that... nothing. I fully understand that you have limited space, but it just seems a real shame. I believe Phil Elliot even sent you a review copy, so you can't say you never saw it.

The sad truth of the matter is that British comics and creators are still playing second fiddle to our US counterparts, which is why we will never have a comic industry in this country outside of **Judge Dredd** and co. Simply because of a lack of support by us British, preferring to be cynical and bitchy instead. They know who they are!

# Doing what comes naturally

***Comment by Tim Hayes, Nuneaton***

ANYONE who's ever worked for a large company that's in an expansionist mood knows that it's impossible to draw nice straight connections between its business decisions and its attitudes towards customers. It's just not that simple.

Any corporate manoeuvre, large or small, is a fearsomely complicated six-handed calculation involving the company, its owners, its shareholders, its marketplace, its competitors and its Greater Good. Such moves are never made lightly or driven by disdain for its customers. Those genuinely concerned people placing blood curses on Marvel management because they perceive contempt to be Marvel's motive have, in my opinion, misunderstood the way that big companies think.

I can't think offhand of many reasons why a producer in a shrinking market shouldn't move to control his own distribution. That's just basic economics, the same basic economics applied all over the industry when a company decides it wants to be large and lead the market, rather than be small and service a niche. And it's especially understandable when the existing independent distributors could exert real influence over the success or failure of the company's products.

Although I can't vouch for Marvel's tone of voice in its communications with dealers or the severity of its new sales terms, I don't think that the business decision is inherently contemptuous of comic shops or comic readers. Neither is the late appearance of the Marvel catalogue, which could be due to any number of mundane reasons.

I agree with Peter David that we're about to find out whether Marvel owner Ronald Perelman regards the average comic buyer as the kind of customer he wants to do business with, or whether he'd rather convince us to see Marvel at the bottom of a much larger picture, funneling consumers towards other, more bankable characters and less hide-bound media.

The acid test will be whether Marvel is able or inclined to demonstrate its faith in comics by developing material that the casual buyers will actually want, or whether only comics with a place in the funnel will be encouraged.

Either way, it won't sound the death knell for comics and since the second largest publisher has been owned by an entertainment conglomerate for decades, you could argue this has all been coming for ages.

But Marvel's latest moves are a clear sign that while mainstream comics' place in Warner's old world was clear, their role in (the Perelman-owned) New World's new one is much less secure.

I don't see anything in Marvel's behaviour so far proving that the future has been determined and set in stone, just the opposite in fact. I hope Marvel manages to square the circle and survive to tell the tale. But their actions are not contemptuous or illogical.

After all, even those of us who feel involved enough to write to trade magazines agree that the market is shrinking because the mainstream product is unattractive to just about everybody.

Basic economics has a few stern things to say about that too.

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# nETworks

*A monthly rundown on the latest opinions of fans and professionals from Britain and America, as expressed on the computer internet. Compiled by Richard Johnston and the NETworks team.*

### Paranoid Press

The Hype Comics Cafe page on the World Wide Web reported: *Paradox Press has announced that its **Big Book of Conspiracies** will be delayed by two months due to artwork being mysteriously lost. Personally, I think it's a conspiracy. The shipment of art will have to be redrawn, resulting in the delay...*

### Bat attack

Also from Hype Comics Cafe: ***Batman** editor Dennis O'Neil revealed a future storyline for the Batman books in his chat with the fans on America On-Line. O'Neil said that the next major event in the Bat-books will feature a plague striking Gotham City. The story has apparently already started in Azrael, and it will crossover to the regular Bat-books in around six months...*

### Days of futures past

The *Twilight* proposal by Alan Moore (see *Movers and Shakers*, **Comics International #57**) has led to a lot of discussion on the net.

Steven Chaput (shot@panix.com) posted: *Most people who have read it were bothered by the sexual habits of the characters more than anything else in the book. As usual you'll have people upset by one of their favourite characters portrayed as (Oh, my gawd!!!) a homosexual. Also the marriage of two central characters was also disturbing to a few, though in the context of the story it was certainly logical. I really wonder if DC could bring itself to publish this story in any form?*

Marc Singer (marcs@wam.umd.edu) said: *I thought the proposal was quite brilliant. The only problem was that no major reason was given for the "darkening" of so many heroes, causing many of the changes and much of the grimness to seem superficial. But an actual story would've probably fleshed this out more... Overall, it's one of the most gripping plots I've read.*

Michael Lee (michaell@coyote.cs.wisc.edu) said: *I'm not sure if I like the way the "Super" heroes are treated in this story. There are no heroes at all [barring Batman and company, perhaps], and while that is fine and good when it's Miracleman, it isn't quite the same when it's Superman. I don't see how Captain Marvel could have the sexual habits he described; and I also don't see Plastic Man as a male prostitute.*

*Of course, DC eventually did do Twilight. It was Armageddon 2001."*

Abhijit Khale wrote on the 24th: *Moore clearly believes (correctly) that the American audience has a far greater tolerance for violence than sex, and he seems to want to shake people up a bit.*

*Incidentally, it seems to me that both Superman and Batman come off as fairly heroic in the book. Maybe this is the old fanboy in Moore showing himself: he can't really bear to show characters he's fond of from his own childhood in a very unflattering light."*

Whatever opinions expressed about the piece, net consensus is that it is well worth a read. It can be obtained from the online comics library site, now being presumably in the public domain.

### Moore politics

The *Twilight* thread led to some discussion about Alan Moore's politics. On 26th of June, Abhijit Khale posted: *One of the things that bugs me a little about Moore's work is that he is hardly ever critical of left wing organisations or governments. He doesn't praise them either, he just seems to ignore them. Example: In Watchmen, he hardly ever comments on the politics and internal affairs of the Soviet Union. Also, I remember his criticising right wing attempts to censor comics and books in the USA, but he's singularly silent about left wing attempts to do the same. If he is indeed the believer in liberty, social justice and human ideals that his books seem to make him out to be, then he should be equally critical of all threats to freedom."*

### Exclusive exclusive!

Heath (nsfit8322@alpha.nsula.edu) transcribed a letter he'd received from Capital City Distributors on the morning of June 28th: *As you well know, the comic industry is undergoing rapid and dramatic changes. The direct market is changing from a market where distributors sell all available products to some of the retailers to one where each distributor sells a portion of the product to all the customers. In an exclusive world, Capital City Distribution will be the exclusive sales agent for a package of medium to small size publishers that no retailer can live without.*

*It is in your best interest to open an account with Capital as early as possible and begin placing orders right away so that you will have an established relationship with our customer service, credit, and sales departments when the exclusives are announced.*

Jeff Mason (jrm@grove.ufl.edu) posted on the 2nd of July: *I called them up to get confirmation of any sort and ... what I gathered was that it was a lure to get new business without anything confirmed, but with deals "in the works."*

Mark Thompson (thompson@clipper.robadome.com) head of the independent distributor Cold Cut said on the 6th: *I talked to Tony Lobito (Image executive) last week, and he said "Don't believe ANYTHING you hear about us having gone exclusive - I haven't decided yet and won't decide for a while." Meanwhile, I've heard rumors that Dark Horse is planning to announce "something" affecting their distribution at San Diego this year, and that they're going to base their action on what Image decides. Yeesh, what a year...*

Bobb Waller (bbwaller@iadfw.net) posted on the 15th: *Capital City is losing their Dallas Warehouse. We were told today our account will be serviced out of Houston... Given the lousy service and organisation of Heroes World, in 6 to 12 months Diamond may be the only distributor left!*

### Lost cats?

Martin Wagner's popular cult feline anthropomorphic comic justifiably became a hit during 1993. But now nearly two years after the last all-new issue, Ian Boothby (boothby@Direct.CA) posted a sarcastic note — relating to the use of US packaging to publicise missing children — to rec.arts.comics.alternative on June 23rd: *I saw the latest issue of **Hepcats** on the side of a milk carton the other day. I hope they find it soon but after two years I've all but lost hope."*

### Anti-Heroes World

Problems with Heroes World have been dominating the (mainly US) Retailers forum on Compuserve. Cliff Biggers (74647,3450) posted: *I was on hold for 35 minutes yesterday — I timed it, because I was amazed that they would pay for a phone call on such an inefficient system.*

On the 13th of July, Cliff then posted: *I was shorted ten copies of **Wolverine & Cable**, plus I was billed for **Ren & Stimpy**, which didn't ship this week. So why is it on the invoice? Marvel said that we should just pay for them and we'll get 'em later on. I was told on Friday when I phoned in reorders that I'd have them by today; they would either be shipped separately or would arrive with my books. Neither has occurred, and no one at HWD has the damnedest idea what's going on with those reorders.*

Percy Lau (75762,2300), with three stores had this to say: *The main store just received 140 copies of **Web of Spider-Man #128**, (that location only ordered 80), the discount was 11% under. Comics shop 3 got all their books, shop 2 is missing 50 **Web of Spider-Man #128**, shop 1 is missing 10 **Web of Spider-Man #128**. Sheesh!*

Ted Mays of Gecko Books (102051, 3545) said: *I was told by a HW rep that **Wolvie/Gambit** did not ship, although I received them. Even they don't know what's shipping out!*

### Journal comics

On June 24th, Geoffrey Mason, Editor of **Indy** magazine (jrm@grove.ufl.edu) posted about a fax from **The Comics Journal**:

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MARVEL COMICS
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*The VERY interesting fax talked at length about David Peter, their new columnist...* Apparently, the column is to be entitled "Butt-Eye Address"

## Li'l Sandman

During a conversation about **The Sandman** 70 in Compuserve, a voice popped up on July 5th saying: *My dad is neil I don't realy care about sandman.* It was none other than Mike Gaiman (102256,3472), Neil's son. Mike, a former mutant fan, has spurned his love for the **X-Men**, saying: *I'm more of a spawn kid now.* When talking about the Spawn toys, Mike admitted: *I've got all the spawn toys my fiverat [sic] is malibolgia cause I had the idea for the toy.*

And just so we know that Mike isn't a comic-obsessed individual: *I spend most of my time on the computer and biking.*

## Warren's piece

When the news that Ken Lashley, (artist on **Excalibur**) was leaving the book, a few questioned the reason. Warren Ellis, the book's writer, posted on the 27th of June: *Lashley,I believe, has been "invited to leave". Dunno where he's going, don't care...*

One fan wasn't so happy about this: *Woah. If I had the best artist in all of the X-Books drawing on the book I was writing I would want to know where he was going. He's been with that book for a while and deserves a lot of respect. He kicks ass over every other X-Artist.*

In other conversations, Ellis said that he "Didn't like Lashley's work," and "Normally, yes, I talk to artists, but I had no contact with Lashley."

In a further Compuserve discussion, Ellis posted: *Um...would you believe Kitty Pryde does The Bad Thing? And not with Colossus?* As to further plans for **Excalibur**, Ellis said: *Issue 91 —Excalibur go out to a pub and get drunk. Honestly.*

Paul Grant (74706,2317) replied: *Channeling Garth again, are we?* Warren replied: *Well, I keep getting postcards from the filthy old bogtrotter, you know how it is...*

Howard Cohen (75403,2700) enquired about an interview to be printed in **Hero** magazine and Ellis replied: *I have no recollection of giving that Hero interview. That doesn't mean I didn't...!*

## Beanboneblood

Regarding the recent move by **Bone** to Image Comics, Paul Grant (74706,2317) posted: *Howabout a Beanworld - Badrock - Bone crossover?*

Much to everybody's surprise, Kurt Busiek (73654,3007) replied: *Rob Liefeld and Larry Marder have been talking about a Badrock-Beanworld crossover for some time. I think I heard something about Jeff Smith being invited along, if he cares to join in...*

## Times, they are a chanGen'...

In a recent advertorial in a number of distributor catalogues, Image founder Rob Liefeld stated that their position towards Peter David: "seems to be changing".

On the 6th of July, Peter David clarified the matter: *What's happened is that key Image personnel have approached me about writing and I haven't turned it down flat.*

*Specifically, both Rob and Jim approached me about writing a series, but at the time I simply didn't have any availability for such an undertaking. However, Jim subsequently approached me about the possibility of a Gen13 one-shot with Art Adams doing the artwork.*

*I was excited about the thought of working with Art, whose work I've tremendously admired. But I knew diddly about Gen13. So Jim sent me a box of 'em (with every damned cover). I thought it was a fun little series and I could have a good time with it. It was a one-shot. And it was Art Adams. So I said okay.*

*Since then, Art has now said he hasn't got the time, so I'm waiting to see if they can turn up another artist with whom I'd be eager to work. If not, then it won't get done. If so, then it will. That's where it stands."*

## More Morituri

On June 25th, in a discussion about the late **Strikeforce Morituri** series, Phil Hall (comic@squonk.win-uk.net) posted: *I heard a delightfully apocryphal story about how creators Gillis and Anderson decided to kill off the heroes in Morituri: by throwing darts at a dart board with the current roster placed on the board instead of the numbers.*

## Near to Neary

With the announcement of various Marvel UK titles being axed and the departure of editor-in-chief Paul Neary, Hank Kanalz (71155, 2025) of Malibu Comics, posted: *Neary will be inking some Bryan Hitch projects for Harras's X-Office, and he's also inking over George Perez, to help me finish off UltraForce-Avengers (he actually started on it today, methinks).*

## More Ushaw...

Gary Ushaw (gu@ee.ed.ac.uk) has been keeping *Networks* up to date with future Vertigo projects, the first of which may anger newspaper strip men Les Lilley and John Burns with its title: *The Seekers. Creator-owned, written by J.M. DeMatteis, drawn by the usual people who collaborate with DeMatteis (Muth, Brooklyn Dreams guy, etc.). It's said to be a New Age X-Files type thang. Probably solicited very soon.*

***The Dreaming**: you know about this one. Written and drawn by various (including Terry La Ban, John Ney Reiber, Peter Hogan, Bryan Talbot and some loser called Gary Ushaw). Covers by McKean. Starts next March or thereabouts.*

***The Phantom Stranger**: I heard of this a while ago, but whether they have a creative team lined up yet, I don't know.*

***House of Mystery**: written by Steven Seagal, I believe. Must be taking a break from Die-Hard-on-a-boat movies.*

## Net facts:

The Usenet newsgroups, cover a wide variety of comics discussion under various group "hierarchies".

The rec.arts.comics. hierarchy contains sub sections such as info, misc, x-books, marvel-universe, dc-universe, strips, marketplace, alternative and elfquest. Smaller groups in the alt.comics hierarchy include superman, batman, classics, and fan-fiction.

There is a rec.arts.manga hierarchy and individual groups such as alt.fan.neil-gaiman, and alt.fan.tank-girl. There are a number of comics professionals online, including Neil Gaiman, Peter David, Walt Simonson, Chris Claremont, Jim Lee, Dan Chichester, Fabian Nicieza, Scott Lobdell, Howard Chaykin and Barry Windsor Smith.. Several comics companies have a net presence too, including DC, Dark Horse, Marvel, Antarctic, Image, Tekno, Antarctic and Cartoon Books.

## Neulogisms:

New terms with which you may be unfamiliar when starting out on the Internet:

**Net** - Abbreviation for "internet". Lots of computers across the world joined together by satellite, by phone lines and cables. Anyone can join.

**User** - Someone who uses a computer and is linked to the net with it.

**Post** - A message sent to a newsgroup.

**Newsgroup** - Posts are collected under different subject headers. New newsgroups are created all the time, there's one for you out there!

**E-mail** - short for electronic mail, mail sent from one address (something@somewhere.else) to another across the internet.

**Netiquette** - the unwritten constitution of the internet. An anarchic community, everyone on the net polices each other. Guidelines are drawn up monitoring acceptable behaviour and putting a stop to unruly newcomers. Grasping netiquette can frustrate new users, but every guideline exists for a very good reason and the newuser groups on Usenet explain it all. Remember, just because you pay for net access, doesn't necessarily mean that you have the right to do whatever you want with it, but with people joining groups every day, there is a call for rules to be changed.

:-) 8-) ;-) They are smileys, showing that what you've just said was a joke! Essential for users without a sense of humour. Just turn your head sideways and all will be revealed.

**WWW page** - The World Wide Web. Pages of interactive text and graphics letting you watch videos, play games, listen to music, or get a specific piece of information at any time.

**Usenet, Compuserve, Genie, Prodigy, Win-UK.Net** - are examples of companies that provide a limited subscription access to parts of the internet. Compuserve being one that provides a CB (Citizen's Band) facility.

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David - Merseyside 28 June 1995

*A note to thank you... I'm happy with the books I bought..... I'm most pleased with the Superboy #12.... Interestingly, Gerber lists it as a 6 on his rarity scale which implies it's a tough find. This copy looks nicer than the one in the Photo-Journal, too.*

Ian - Sheffield - 2 May 1995

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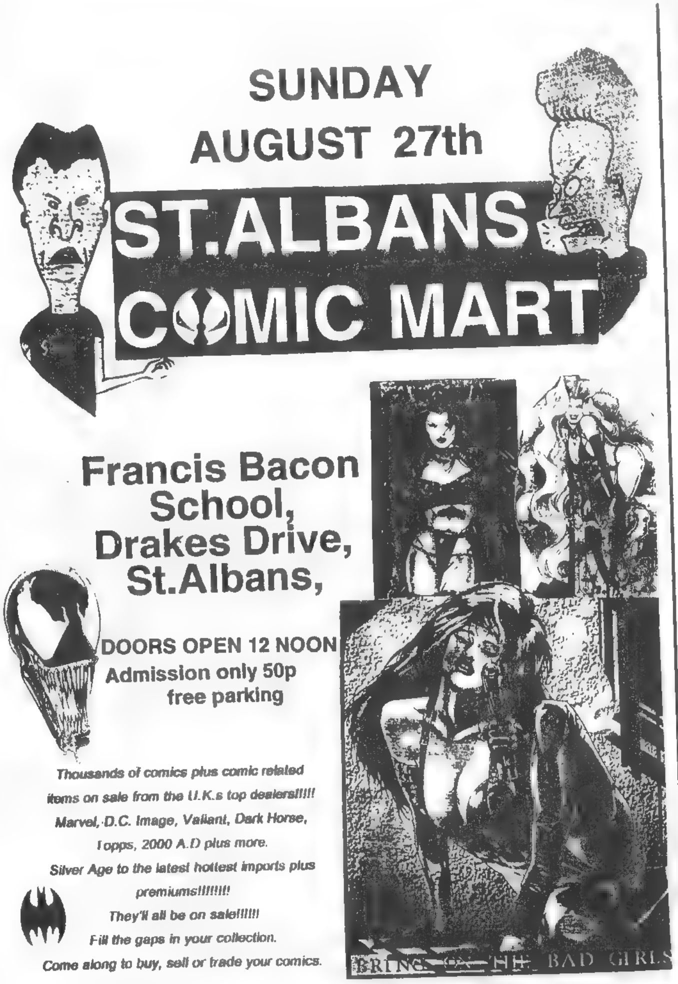
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# q & a

Comics International, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

Comics International invites you to submit your comics-related queries, both for your own enlightenment, and that of our general readership.

**Paul Gravett,**
**National Museum Cartoon Art**
**15-17 St Cross Street, London**

IN ANSWER to your recent *Q&A* question about **Stardust the Super-Wizard**: It was written and drawn by Fletcher Hanks, one of several pseudonyms of Henry Fletcher, according to the Jerry Bails and James Ware reference work **Who's Who of American Comic Books**.

A **Stardust** episode was reprinted in colour in Art Spiegelman and Francoise Mouly's **RAW Magazine** #5 in 1983. Fletcher Hanks worked for the Jerry Iger studio in 1939 to 1940 and also drew several series for Fiction House comics between 1939 and 1941.

**Jonathan Lugan**
**9 West Ferry Field, Edinburgh**

IN **Comics International** #57, someone was enquiring about the addresses of any comic shops in Paris. I, too, am going abroad on holiday (against my will, I must add) and, being an extreme comics enthusiast, I am certain that even with a large supply of graphic novels, trade paperbacks and back issues with me, it won't be enough, and I won't be able to get my weekly fix of current comic books.

Can you tell me of any US comics shops in Puerto Rico, Gran Caneria? Please help, and before August 6th, when I leave. I'm desperate!

*Bummer, eh, Jonathan? By the time you read this, you'll be back from your trip, because you wrote at the end of July and we're not on sale until August 7th!*

**Carl Bateman, 86 First Ave**
**Kidsgrove, Stoke-On-Trent**

OKAY, real fanboy stuff this. In which issues of L.E.G.I.O.N did the Bouncing Boy analogue appear?

*If you're referring to the clone Legionnaires, Bouncing Boy was not one of the team until Zero Hour, when he suddenly (and inexplicably) appeared replacing Ferro.*

**Alan Ng, 641A Burnage Lane,**
**Manchester**

A FEW months ago I bought a **Vampirella** jigsaw which was made by Warren in 1974. It is not a copy version and is in very good condition with the original box.

I've asked several **Vampirella** collectors about it, and none of them have seen one for sale before, except in the pages of Warren's old **Vampirella** magazine. I would be very grateful if you could tell me how rare it is, and how much it is really worth.

*As with many items too obscure to be catalogued, the value can really only be assessed through auction. That way, a value is established which becomes a yardstick for the future. Check with one of the auction companies that advertise elsewhere this issue.*

**Dale Elson**
**14 Downside Cl, Bristol**

SEARCHING through my childhood comic collection recently, looking for a particular comic, I came across a copy of an old comic book price guide, dated 1975 and edited by Alan Austin.

Those were the days when a copy of **Amazing Fantasy** #15 and **Amazing Spider-Man** #1 were both priced at £15 in mint. If only we could turn back the clock!

I was wondering if you could tell me if the price guide was the first of its kind in the UK, and were the other UK price guides based upon the foundations of this publication. Would it be of any value in years to come, because although 20 years old, it looks like new.

I hope you can help me with this question.

*Yes, Alan Austin did produce the first UK price guide in 1975. While it created a furore in fandom at the time (many preferring to assess their own selling prices than be guided by a rival dealer), it contained 52 full sized typewritten pages printed through a Gestetner skin with a **Fantastic Four #1** traced cover. This 30p 1975 gem did lead to Duncan McAlpine's UK guides, with his first (in 1989) having a preface by Alan. But before Duncan entered the picture, Alan went on to produce further editions. By 1979, the retitled **Comicollector's Companion & Price Guide** ran to two volumes (Vol 1: Marvel Comics £1 and the chunkier Vol 2: DC Comics @ £1.50). I guess nobody cared about indies back then.*

*By 1979, for record keepers, **Amazing Fantasy** #15 was £120 in mint, a 800% increase in four years. Coincidentally (no science here) **Amazing Spider-Man** #1 had also increased to £120.*

*As a curio, you should be able to ask at least £10 for your nm first edition, but as mentioned earlier, an auction would be best.*

**Ross Kemper**
**163 Alum Street, Falmouth**

I KNOW this is not strictly a comics related question, but do you or any of your readers know the exact words to the theme tune of *The Flintstones?*

*According to our in-house cartoon theme buff Kerry Ann Hurley, it goes something like this...*
*"YABBA-DABBA-DOO! Flint-stones, meet the Flint-stones. They're the mod-ern-stone-age-fam.i.lee. From-the town-of-Bed-rock, they're a page-right-out-of his.to.ree. Let's-ride with the family-down-the-street, through the court-e-sy of Fred's two feet. When-you're with the Flint-stones, have a yabba-dabba-doo time, a dabba-doo time, we'll have a gay old time.*

*[End: chorus + following verse] Some-day maybe Fred will win the fight, then-that cat-will-stay-out-for-the-night. Flint-stones, meet the Flint-stones and have a yabba-dabba-doo time, a dabba-doo time, we'll have a gay. old. time. We'll have a g-a-y. o-l-d. t-i-m-e. (Plus a shout: Wilma!) Oh, and Phil Hall's wife, Paula, can do Scooby-Doo if anybody wants it. And Dez's speciality is Mr Ed. But then, what* does *this have to do with comics?*

---

**Dave Johnson**
**130 Melton Road North,**
**Woodford, Northants**

WHAT was the first thing that Evan Dorkin, of **Milk & Cheese** fame, ever had published?

*Outside of his school photo, you've got us there, unless it was* ***Pirate Corp$*** *#1. But if it isn't, would you settle for a few verses of the Green Acres theme?*

---

**Tim Hayes**
**6 The Beeches, Nuneaton**

HAS anyone in recent years reprinted Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon material, either in book form or as a reprint series?

*Fantagraphics and Kitchen Sink both have. Oh, and there's also a rumour of them co-producing a Car 54 Where Are You songsheet.*

---

**Marshall Rees**
**8 Heol-y-Parc, Evanstown,**
**Gilfach Goch, Mid Glamorgan**

I RECENTLY won two trading cards from the Tekno Comix scratch card competition, and when I sent for them, I asked for them to be signed.

When they came back they were signed in gold by Mrs Roddenberry and Mr Nimoy. But they look printed, and not real signatures. Do you know anything about these cards? Also, where can I get a copy of the magazine **SFX** #0, seen on the back of **Comics International** #55?

*Damn, that was serious. Does that mean we can't mention My Mother The Car? OK, we won't. The gold printed cards: if they're real signatures, you should be able to scratch their writing off the glossy surface. But you might not want to do that.*

*SFX #0: you might try the publisher, Future Magazines. They printed a large quantity (not for general sale) to show advertisers what the magazine would look like. They should have some left which they won't need.*

---

**Susan Baker**
**Forest Gate, London E7**

I HAVE recently started watching *The New Adventures of Superman* which has revitalised my interest in Superman comics, particularly the stories which detailed Clark's relationship with Lois Lane.

I was wondering if you could tell me in which issues: a) Clark and Lois became lovers; b) when Clark revealed his identity to Lois; c) when Clark proposed marriage — and when Lois accepted? And finally, are they ever going to get married?

*Tricky one to fit a song into, that one, Susan. DC Comics might debate whether Lois and Clark actually are lovers in the Biblical sense (whatever the Superman 2 movie had us believe), especially in the wake of Larry Niven's theory. In his short story, Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex (last seen in the Sphere paperback* ***Super Heroes****, edited by Michel Parry) Niven postulates why such a union could literally be a mind-blower for Lois.*

*Back at DC, Clark proposed in* ***Superman*** *(current series) #50. Lois accepted in #51. He revealed his identity in #52, and we're still waiting to see if Larry Niven got it right about the shag.*

---

**Rory Haynes**
**17 Primrose Close, Hereford**

I AM a Marvel collector and I have recently started collecting **Adam Warlock** comics and I have a few questions for you.
1) What type of things can Warlock do with his mental powers? I know he has vast mental powers because of information on the back of a trading card.
2) Could Warlock beat people like Thor, Hulk or Thanos?
3) This may sound silly, but can Adam Warlock cast spells like mythical Warlocks?

*Don't you just hate it when the last set of questions are really boring? OK: (1) Warlock's mental powers aren't that great that he knows the theme to I'm Dickens He's Fenster. But they're quite impressive, nevertheless.*
*(2) Could Warlock beat Thor, Hulk or Thanos? Only at Trivial Pursuit — due to his vast mental powers "because of information on the back of a trading card".*
*(3) Not silly at all, Rory (compared to your other questions or our answers). Warlock hasn't cast any spells yet (just the odd aspersion), but he is known to be a devotee of I Dream of Jeannie and Bewitched.*

---

*Next issue's answers will be sponsored by really silly 1960s TV western themes, including such classics as Bronco, Sugarfoot, Tenderfoot (when it changed channels), Have Gun Will Travel, Have Knife Will Slice and the unforgettable Come on, you Spurs.*
*...Dez ("Jet-lagged? Never") Skinn*

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Annual 1 .... £3.25

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1, 3 .... £2.25
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5 .... £1.75
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15, 16, 17 .... £1.60
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0 .... £2.25

**Rune**
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Giant-Size Rune 1 .... £2.25

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11, 12 .... £1.60

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4 .... £1.75
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13 .... £1.75
14, 15 .... £1.60
17 .... £1.95

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7 .... £1.75
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13 .... £2.75
14, 15, 16, 17, 18 .... £1.60

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Ashcan 0a, 0b (Wizard) .... £1.50
Ashcan (ltd edition) .... £1.00
0, 1 .... £2.25
4, 5 .... £1.75
6, 7 .... £1.95

**Ultraverse Double Feature**
1 .... £3.50

**Ultraverse Origins**
1 .... £0.95

**Ultraverse: Year One**
1 .... £3.95

**Ultraverse Year Zero: The Death of the Squad**
1 .... £2.50
2 .... £2.40

**Warstrike**
1 .... £1.75
2, 3, 4, 5 .... £1.60
Giant-Size 1 .... £1.95

**Wrath**
1 .... £1.75
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 .... £1.60
9 .... £1.95

## ECLIPSE

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33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 .... £1.35

**Airboy meets the Prowler**
1 .... £1.50

**Airboy and Mr Monster**
1 .... £1.50

**Air Fighters meet Sgt Strike**
1 .... £1.50

**The Black Terror**
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2, 3 .... £3.50

**Dragon Chiang**
nn .... £2.75

**M**
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2, 3 .... £3.95

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3, 4, 8, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 .... £1.95

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2, 3 .... £1.95

**New America**
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2, 3, 4 .... £1.35

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14, 15, 17 .... £1.35

**Scout: War Shaman**
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3, 4, 9, 109, 12, 13 .... £1.40

**Steed & Mrs Peel**
1 .... £3.75
2, 3 .... £3 50

## WANTS LISTS

This advertisement is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of our back issue stock (totalling approximately 100,000 comics) but is meant to draw your attention to the diversity and range of our stock. Whether you are looking for mainstream super-heroes or the most off--the-wall of the independents, why not send us your wants list?
Don't forget you can... Post it! Fax it! E-Mail it!

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On and from Sunday, 27th August 1995, we will be open every Sunday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

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Anybody who has attended one of our Mega-Clearance Sales before already knows the delights "in store", and now we have lots of new stock available at ridiculous prices. For those who haven't attended one of our sales, come and grab some bargains and take the opportunity to find out why we are rightly known as Kent's premiere comic shop.

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## COMICS ECONOMICS

*The direct market of specialist shops now represents over 85%+ of US comics publishers' sales revenue. The following chart shows the 100 top direct market titles as assessed by Capital City Distribution's own samplings, and, in the wake of the recent exclusive distribution deals, is now the only industry chart.*

# Direct Market trade orders: Top 100 July 1995

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **X-Men 44 ($1.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 2 | **Uncanny X-Men 324 ($1.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 3 | **Wolverine/Gambit: Victims 1 ($2.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 4 | **Wolverine 92 ($1.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 5 | **Spawn 34 ($1.95)** | **Image** |
| 6 | **Generation X #7 ($1.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 7 | **Gen 13 #4 ($2.50)** | **Image** |
| 8 | **X-Force 45 ($1.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 9 | **X-Man 7 ($1.95)** | **Marvel** |
| 10 | **Spawn: Blood Feud 2 ($2.25)** | **Image** |
| 11 | X-Factor 114 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 12 | Cyblade/Shi: Battle For Independence 1 ($2.95) | Image |
| 13 | Cable 23 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 14 | Wolverine '95 ($3.95) | Marvel |
| 15 | Excalibur 89 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 16 | Spider-Man: Maximum Clonage Omega ($4.95) | Marvel |
| 17 | Wizard Guide To Comics 48 ($3.99) | Wizard |
| 18 | Amazing Spider-Man 405 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 19 | Shi: Senryaku 1 ($2.95) | Crusade |
| 20 | Spectacular Spider-Man 227 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 21 | Dawn 1 ($2.95) | Sirius |
| 22 | Spider-Man 62 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 23 | Sovereign Seven 3 ($1.95) | DC |
| 24 | Web of Spider-Man 128 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 25 | WildC.A.T.s 22 ($2.50) | Image |
| 26 | Superman vs Aliens 3 ($4.95) | Dark Horse |
| 27 | Untold Tales of Spider-Man 1 ($0.99) | Marvel |
| 28 | X-Files 7 ($2.95) | Topps |
| 29 | Wetworks 9 ($2.50) | Image |
| 30 | Star Wars: X-Wing Rogue Squadron 1 ($2.95) | Dark Horse |
| 31 | Incredible Hulk 433 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 32 | Violator/Badrock 3 ($2.50) | Image |
| 33 | Superman 104 ($1.95) | DC |
| 34 | Batman 522 ($1.95) | DC |
| 35 | Action Comics 713 ($1.95) | DC |
| 36 | Adventures of Superman 527 ($1.95) | DC |
| 37 | Superman: Man of Steel 48 ($1.95) | DC |
| 38 | Ballistic featuring Wetworks 1 ($2.50) | Image |
| 39 | Venom: Sinner Takes All 1 ($2.95) | Marvel |
| 40 | Spectacular Spider-Man Super-Size 1 ($3.95) | Marvel |
| 41 | Wonder Woman 101 ($1.95) | DC |
| 42 | Detective Comics 689 ($1.95) | DC |
| 43 | Nightwing 1 ($2.25) | DC |
| 44 | Grifter 3 ($2.50) | Image |
| 45 | Spider-Man: Lost Years 2 ($2.95) | Marvel |
| 46 | X-Men 2099 #24 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 47 | Avengers: The Crossing ($4.95) | Marvel |
| 48 | Spider-Man Unlimited 10 ($3.95) | Marvel |
| 49 | Team 1: WildC.A.T.s 1 ($2.50) | Image |
| 50 | Team 7: Objective Hell 3 ($2.50) | Image |
| 51 | Wildstorm Swimsuit Special 2 ($2.50) | Image |
| 52 | Cyberforce/StrykeForce: Opposing Forces 1 ($2.50) | Image |
| 53 | Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 75 ($1.95) | DC |
| 54 | Batman: Shadow of the Bat 42 ($1.95) | DC |
| 55 | Sandman 71 ($2.50) | DC |
| 56 | Evil Ernie vs. Super Heroes 1 ($2.95) | Chaos |
| 57 | Fantastic Four 403 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 58 | What If 77 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 59 | Batman Annual 19 ($3.95) | DC |
| 60 | Star Wars: River of Chaos 3 ($2.50) | Dark Horse |
| 61 | Robin 20 ($1.95) | DC |
| 62 | Adventures of Superman Annual 7 ($3.95) | DC |
| 63 | Weapon Zero T-minus 2 ($2.50) | Image |
| 64 | Spartan: Warrior Spirit 1 ($2.50) | Image |
| 65 | Green Lantern 66 ($1.75) | DC |
| 66 | Team 1: StormWatch 1 ($2.50) | Image |
| 67 | Glory 5 ($2.50) | Image |
| 68 | Azrael 8 ($1.95) | DC |
| 69 | Avengers 390 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 70 | Backlash 10 ($2.50) | Image |
| 71 | Double Edge: Alpha ($4.95) | Marvel |
| 72 | Spider-Man 2099 #35 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 73 | Catwoman 24 ($1.95) | DC |
| 74 | Fantastic Four Unplugged 1 ($0.99) | Marvel |
| 75 | Avengelyne 3 ($2.50) | Maximum |
| 76 | Ruins 2 ($4.95) | Marvel |
| 77 | StormWatch 26 ($2.50) | Image |
| 78 | Prophet Annual 1 ($3.50) | Image |
| 79 | Batman/Judge Dredd: Ultimate Riddle ($4.95) | DC |
| 80 | Captain America 443 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 81 | Vengeance of Vampirella 16 ($2.95) | Harris |
| 82 | Voodoo/Zealot: Skin Trade (($4.95) | Image |
| 83 | Flash 105 ($1.75) | DC |
| 84 | Silver Surfer 107 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 85 | Operation Knightstrike 3 ($2.50) | Image |
| 86 | New Warriors 62 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 87 | Superboy 19 ($1.95) | DC |
| 88 | Savage Dragon 21 ($2.50) | Image |
| 89 | Ultraforce/Avengers Prelude 1 ($2.50) | Malibu |
| 90 | Lady Rawhide 1 ($2.95) | Topps |
| 91 | Ghost Rider 65 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 92 | Aliens vs Predator: War 3 ($2.50) | Dark Horse |
| 93 | Iron Man 319 ($1.50) | Marvel |
| 94 | Ghost 4 ($2.50) | Dark Horse |
| 95 | Deathblow 18 ($2.50) | Image |
| 96 | Aliens/Predator: Deadliest/Species 12 ($2.50) | Dark Horse |
| 97 | Green Arrow 100 ($3.95) | DC |
| 98 | Daredevil 344 ($1.95) | Marvel |
| 99 | StormWatch 25 ($2.50) | Image |
| 100 | Thor 489 ($1.50) | Marvel |

While recent exclusivity deals prevent any distributor from knowing all-title sales, Capital City Distribution has determined the full industry chart positions by asking a wide sampling of their customers to provide details of their exclusive orders through Heroes World (for Marvel) and Diamond (for DCs).

***Analysis: Marvel*** is the clear winner with 38 titles in the top 100 and nearly 50% of the top 50 (a huge increase on their average of 36.7% during the last twelve **Comics International** Top 50 charts). But, of the 24 titles in the top 50, only two are not Spider-Man or X-Men related titles, with all the company's remaining line only managing 15 top 100 charting positions.

The new **Wolverine & Gambit: Victims** #1 entered at 3rd place, giving the mutant titles four of the top five positions. All eleven current continuity X-books place in the top 15.

Spider-Man has ten of its family in the top 50, far outstripping any previous record. With this autumn's Spider-Man 2099/Spider-Man 1995 crossover, Marvel will be looking for a boost for the flagging sales of the 2099 title.

**Incredible Hulk** at 31st and the special **Avengers: The Crossing** were the only other Marvel titles to place within the top 50.

Marvel's dominance could be due to the tempting new incentives offered by Heroes World — wherein retailers receive substantial extra discounts through increased orders, but DC has suffered as a direct result.

***DC Comics*** highest title is Chris Claremont's **Sovereign Seven #3** which, at 23rd, is a huge drop, even though the title is still fully returnable.

Despite 22 titles in the top 100, DC's position has dropped to only 18% of the top 50 as opposed to their average 1994/95 percentage of 29.7%. The most surprising "flop" was the **Batman/Judge Dredd: Ultimate Riddle**, which could only placed at 79th (compared to the top five position achieved by the first team-up of the characters and a top 50 position for the second). With both heroes currently basking in the glory of film releases, the poor sale and the cancellation of both DC Dredd titles bodes badly for the Fleetway star's future.

The Superman and Batman families also took a considerable drop on previous performances, with the Bat-books being hit the hardest. Only three Batman related titles made the top 50. Superman despite dropping, still placed all four weekly Super-titles in the top 50.

**Wonder Woman** has remained in the chart, with veteran creator John Byrne beating all placings by previous regular, "hot" artist Mike Deodato. Byrne's first issue (#101) even placed higher than all but one Batman title.

***Image*** had eleven titles in the top 50 (22%) and 25 comics in the top 100, the highest being **Spawn #34**, which placed at 5th. The company's highest new entry was the **Cyblade/Shi: Battle For Independence** special (the first of a two-part inter-company crossover) which placed at 12th. Otherwise there is little change in Image's chart performance and the company looks relatively stable, even prior to the impending exclusivity with Diamond.

Bill Tucci's **Shi: Senryaku #1** placed at 19th, reinforcing the popularity of the sexy martial artist, while Joe Michael Linsner's "hot" babe comic **Dawn** placed at 21st, the highest position for the popular **Cry For Dawn** creator and his publishing company, Sirius. The only other publishers with top 50 titles are US comic feature magazine **Wizard**, plus tie-ins from Dark Horse (**Superman v Aliens** and the new **Star Wars** title) and Topps' ever-popular **X-Files**.

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# MAIL ORDER INDEX

*WITH the ever-increasing diversity of comics and related items being offered to readers through the post, the **Comics International** Mail Order Index has been designed to help the buyer identify specialists in key areas of collecting. Where telephone numbers are given, readers are advised to phone advertisers only during standard working hours.*

**Code to abbreviations used:**

**w/s** = wholesale available
**dis** = bulk discount terms
**cat** = catalogue available
**s-cat** = sae for catalogue
**s-wants** = sae with wants lists
**CoBRA** = Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
**cc** = major credit cards accepted
**sae** = send stamped, self-addressed envelope with your enquiry

## GOLDEN AGE TITLES

*Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945 but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics*

■ **Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 0181 446 3464

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/Fax 01622-683642

■ **Silver Acre Comics**, The Studio Cottage, Edern, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 6JD (s-wants, cc) 01758-720 532

■ **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535

## SILVER AGE TITLES

*Generally deemed to commence in 1955 with DC Comics' hero rebirth through **Detective 225** (introducing the Martian Manhunter) and **Showcase 4** (introducing the new Flash), herein covering up to late 1960s.*

■ **Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 0181 446 3464

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 01622-683642

■ **Just Comics**, 2 Crossmead Avenue, Greenford, Middx UB6 9TY (cat-28p, CoBRA)

■ **Select Comics**, PO Box 39, Derby DE1 9TD (cat, wants) 01332-340984

■ **Silver Acre Comics**, The Studio Cottage, Edern, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 6JD (s-wants, cc) 01758-720 532

■ **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535

## POST-SILVER AGE

*Comics from the 1970s to date: Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Valiant Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless decide on a name.*

■ **AmerCom**, 36 Glan Morfa, Llandudno Junction, Gwynedd LL29 9AA (s-cat)

■ **Comics Warehouse**, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 850351

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Richard Makinson**, 9 George Street, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 9PB (s-cat, dis)

■ **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535

## HOT COMICS

*Current or key titles, usually first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble on what will increase in value.*

■ **Cosmic Comics**, PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 0181-298 1363

■ **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535

## ADVANCE IMPORTS

*US comics are not in newsagents, except for almost all DCs and most $1.25 Marvels, shipped seafreight. The following offer air-shipped copies from all major publishers.*

■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns St, Colchester, Essex CO2 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 0181-298 1363

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG (s-cat cc) 0171 497 2150

■ **Gosh! Strips by Mail**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 0171 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 0171 485 9320

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester WR5 2DJ (wants,CoBRA)Phone/fax: 01905 355055

■ **Red Hot Comics**, 42 Berridale Ave, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 3AE (CoBRA, s-wants) 0141-637 0162 (10am-11pm)

■ **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535

■ **Timezone**, 12 Fish Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 01743 365192

## LIMITED EDITIONS

*Many high-profile mini-series and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print run "ashcan" editions (ash).*

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 0181-298 1363

■ **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n) 0181-449 5535

## TRADING CARDS

*An increasing number of traders carry a wide range of comics-related trading cards and their peripherals (files, folders, etc).*

■ **Adventure Seekers!**, 105 Hullbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 OLE (cat, wants) 0121 444 0986

■ **Beyond Comics & Books**, 76 Harlescott Rd, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, sae, CoBRA) tel/fax 0171 639 7171

■ **CR Cards**, 47 Grove Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AQ (cat, wants, CoBRA) 0181 599 9306

■ **Discount Trading Cards**, 18 Birch Ave, Rom ley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 4DG (cat, wants, dis, CoBRA) 0161 494 8369

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cat, cc) 0181-298 1363

- **First Choice Cards**, 11 Keith Avenue, Liverpool L4 5SL (cat, wants, CoBRA) 0831 765811
- **Next Millennium**, 14 Newark Way Hendon London NW4 4JL (wants) 0181-203 0014
- **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535
- **Timezone**, 12 Fish St, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants)01743 365192

## ORIGINAL ART

*With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available.*

- **Anime Projects Shop**, 19 High St, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1NP (anime cels, s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 01248 370044
- **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order**, 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 0181-659 9714

## PORTFOLIOS & PRINTS

*Specialists in high quality images, of American and/or European origin.*

- **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order**, 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 0181-659 9714

## MERCHANDISE

*Comics-related t-shirts, posters, video games, video films, badges, etc.*

- **Stateside Comics**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0181-449 5535

## COMICS AUCTIONS

*Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions can provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their comics.*

- **Comic Book Postal Auctions Limited**, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 0171 586 3007
- **Flights of Fantasy**, 82b Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7LW (cat) 0181-298 1363
- **Strictly Comics Auctions**, 1A Wentworth Court, Alson Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 4PA (cat)

## PERIPHERALS

*Acid-free protection for valuable comics. Backing boards, bags, storage boxes, etc.*

- **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order**, 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, cc, s-cat) 0181-659 9714
- **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 0181-298 1363
- **Incognito**, 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 01622-683642
- **Just Comics**, 2 Crossmead Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9TY (w/s only, CoBRA) 0181 578 1308
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*English language translations and Japanese-style American comics.*

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- **Gosh! Strips by Mail**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 0171 636 1011
- **Knockabout Comics**, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 0181 969 2945 (fax: 0181 968 7614)
- **Page 45**, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. 0115 9508045

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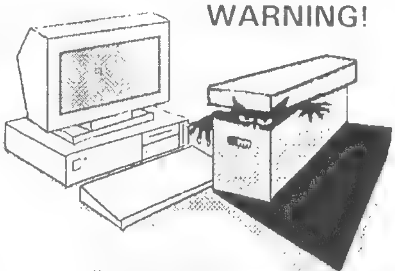

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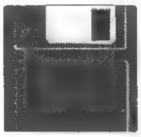

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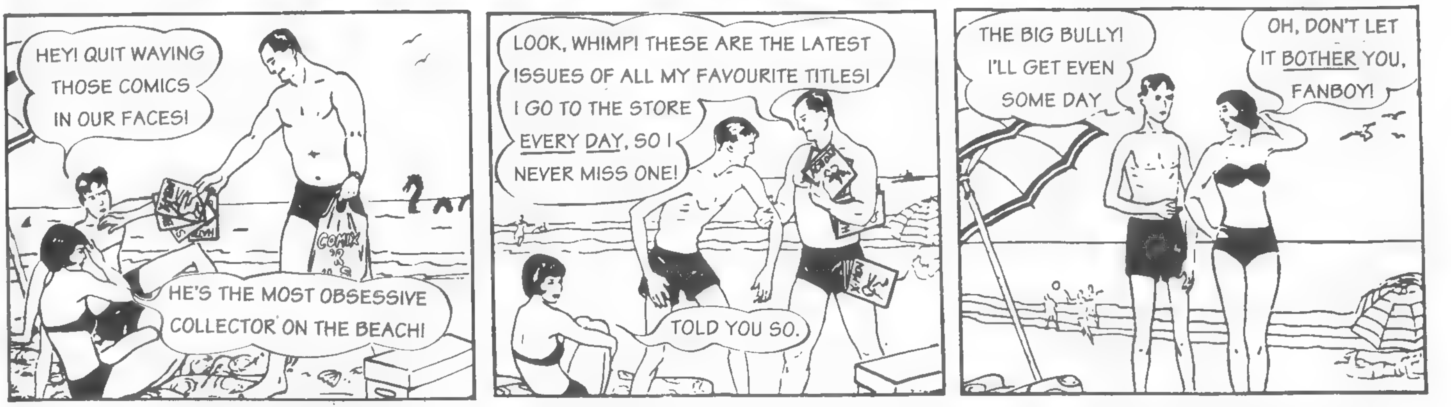
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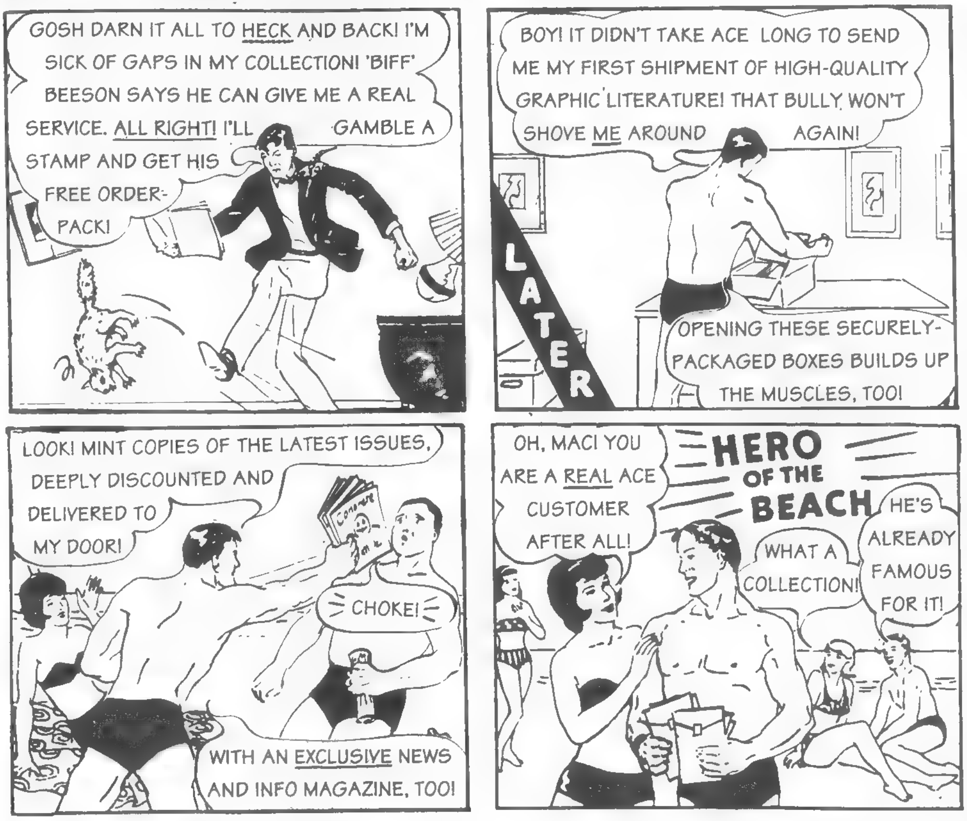
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# rEVIEWS

*It is the intention of **Comics International** to help comics readers keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow titles in stock to be read before choosing purchases; **Comics International**'s reviews are designed to counter this and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a new title after purchase.*

***Review codes:** General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of **1** to **10**. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

*Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with similar titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare **Bone** to **X-Men**, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

*The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +> if there has been a notable improvement.*

**Reviews Editor: Sarah Bolesworth**
**Panel:** Mo Baig (MB), Fabio P Barbieri (FPB), Simon Bowland (SiB), Grant S Doig (GSD), Steven Fox (SF), David Gentle (DG), Mike Kidson (MK), Mark Kirwan-Hayhoe (MK-H), Nigel Lowry (NL), Daniel Mokades (DM), Ian R Salmon (IRS), Paul Snoddy (PS), Stuart Taylor (ST), Paul Wood (PaW)

## DC COMICS

### Action Comics 713

*by Michelinie & Dwyer + Rodier*

<+ -> Enter a nasty piece of work by the name of Saviour, aiming to beat up Superman. This issue also features a hint of a Jimmy Olsen - Lucy Lane - Ron Troupe love triangle brewing and a boring fight scene, with only a touch of character progression in the story. Kieron Dwyer's fine pencils are smothered by Denis Rodier's finishes. (SiB) 6

### Adventures of Superman 526

*by Kesel & Damaggio + Janson*

The original John Byrne-created Bloodsport fights the newly incarnated version in prison in a far-fetched storyline that is nearly as poor as the guest artists featured here. Why combine finished-inker Klaus Janson with an incompatible penciller on what should be a premier title? The result is sketchy and inconsistent. (SiB) 4

### Aquaman 12

*by David & Egeland + Shum*

<+ -> Dolphin versus Mera with Aquaman caught in the middle ... Peter David provides another sparkling script, packed with humour and mystery. This, combined with Martin Egeland's ever-improving artwork, makes **Aquaman** one of the best titles currently around. (PS) 8

<+ -> Aquaman's past and present lovers get in a tangle as Mera goes head to head with Dolphin for the sea king's affections. But it all proves academic when the threesome plunge into a bottomless crevice in the ocean floor and emerge in another dimension. Writer Peter David is really *swimming* now, as is artist Martin Egeland, who's on his 400 metres badge with his excellent clear and crisp artwork. (SiB) 9

### Books of Magic 16

*by Rieber & Snejberg; Vertigo*

<+ +> Tim and Molly travel further into Tim's imaginary childhood land, with Molly's journey becoming particularly hazardous. Elsewhere, present and future collide as Barbatos attempts to use the fallen angel Araquel to ensnare both the youthful and adult Tim. Dialogue and character development are marvellous in this consistently solid title, and the art is fantastic — in the real sense of the word. (IRS) 9

<+ +> Barbatos, having captured Tim's allies, Khara and Nikki, uses them to make Araquel work for him. Meanwhile, the future Tim goes through a metamorphosis, freeing Khara and Nikki in the process. This title, with superlative writing and artwork, goes from strength to strength. Vertigo's best. (GSD) 9

### Babylon 5 #7

*by DeHaas & Ridgeway*

<+> Garibaldi and Keffer, haunted by devious space critters, continue their trek to a distant city. The TV series is moving into the future with its long story arc, but this issue feels like a throwback to the '50s science-fiction comics — not such a bad thing. Simple, pleasant and enjoyable. (NL) 8

### Chiaroscuro 2

*by Rawson + McGreal & Truog + Kayanan; Vertigo*

<+ -> The Milanese court of Ludovico Sforza is the venue for this slice-of-alternative da Vinci biography, with more about his adoptive son's early years, his working life and the Renaissance court. The courtly life is convincingly portrayed, relationships between the protagonists are fleshed out and the narrative moves smoothly along. Unfortunately the central characters are all obnoxious, so you don't give a damn about what happens to any of them. (SF) 6

### Egypt 1

*by Milligan & G. Dillon; Vertigo*

Vincent Me's life takes a drastic turn when he finds himself in someone else's body, and in ancient Egypt. The lead character is excellent, a complete waster with no redeeming qualities. Pete Milligan's writing is of his usual high standard — rapid fire dialogue loaded with sarcasm. Glyn Dillon's art, while more cartoony and less dynamic than his brother Steve's work, is impressive throughout. (IRS) 9

Vincent Me, a selfish but upbeat no-hoper, has run out of friendly faces to turn to. So he joins a religious cult. He gets more than he bargained for when he is sealed into a stone coffin and then reborn in ancient Egypt. This is instantly accessible, and although it's not stunning on the story front, zip and amiability carry it along nicely. Glyn Dillon's art here is lovely. (NL) 8

### The Flash 105

*by Waid + Friedman & Lim + Stegbauer*

<+> The Mirror Master ropes the unwitting Flash into his quest to track down his ex-girlfriend. Throw in a speedy visit from Impulse, and you've got a great episode, with the action aided by guest penciller Ron Lim's artistic genius. (SiB) 8

<+ +> The Flash makes a very one-sided deal with the Mirror Master in the dimension behind the world's reflective surfaces. The fill-in art is adequate rather than impressive, but the writing is a joy once more — great dialogue and distinctive, realistic character development — and a return to form. (IRS) 7

<-> Wally agrees to help the Mirror Master meet the double of his lost love. Of course, it's never as simple as that. This title is in one of its slump periods, but still superior to most of DC's output. (GSD) 8

### Flash Annual 8

*by Waid + Peyer & Brewer + Stegbauer + Ramos*

More *Year One* action as Wally West narrates the incidents distinguishing the "kid" from Flash. Wally, Green Lantern and the Golden Age Flash defend Central City against Doctor Alchemy. In the course of the battle, Wally manages to lay to rest his belief that the recently deceased Barry Allen will soon return. While Mark Waid's handling of Wally's dialogue is as sharp as ever, the actual construction of the plot is somewhat clichéd, and the art can only be rated as average at best. The back-up story, which gives us Wally's second day as Kid Flash, is better — but still not up to the title's potential. (IRS) 4

The **Flash** *Year One* Annual contains two tales: the aftermath of Barry Allen's death and Wally's second adventure as Kid Flash. Mark Waid's Flash tale is his best in a while, and Tom Peyer's Kid Flash backing story is of a similarly high standard. (GSD) 9

### Hellblazer 92

*by Jenkins & Phillips; Vertigo*

<-> It may be a little early to judge, but Paul Jenkins appears to be developing symptoms of what many perceive as Gaiman's disease: the ability to create marvellously structured single-issue stories but a tendency to be weaker over longer tales. Here, Constantine enters into the first stage of a conflict with a servant of the First of the Fallen, the stake being either Constantine's or a child's soul. Sean Phillips is producing his best art to date and Matt Hollingsworth deserves a mention once again for his colours. But while Paul Jenkins handles the lead character perfectly the supporting cast seem in need of clearer definition, as Constantine can only be as strong as the characters he interacts with. (IRS) 5

### Impulse 5

*by Waid & Ramos + Faucher*

<+ -> Impulse makes a second attempt to be a master of disguise. This comic now looks likely to surpass its parent **Flash**'s quality, in terms of both writing and art; it's definitely more consistent. (GSD) 9

<+> Bart Allen takes a hot car for a quick spin, but he hasn't yet mastered the art of staying away from cliff edges! Meanwhile, as Impulse, Bart tries to stop the evil Lightning from spoiling his Uncle's date. Writer Mark Waid is just amazing, with his quirky dialogue and fast pacing, but I can't adequately describe the gorgeously fluid, expressive artwork. (SiB) 9

<-> Max teaches our young hero more tricks — but he can't be there all the time, can he? White Lightning strikes again, revealing that her motives are deeper than would first appear. Another enjoyable issue that widens the story focus to show more of Max — a very well-constructed character from Mark Waid. (SF) 8

<+> Mark Waid delivers some of his best scripting yet as our cocky hero infiltrates White Lightning's teen gang. The dialogue is delightful: the scenes involving Bart and mentor Max are hysterical. Humberto Ramos's cartoony art, with its Art Adams influences, is a fine match for the script. (MB) 9

<+> Impulse infiltrates White Lightning's gang and, without realising it, saves the day. Mark Waid manages to get under the skin of an unthinking adolescent, writing with an incredible zest. Coupled with art that verges on caricature, this is basically just a wonderfully escapist, fun read. (IRS) 8

### Invisibles 12

*by Morrison & Parkhouse; Vertigo*

<+ +> The first year of this title ends with its best issue since **Invisibles** 1. The story, told from the point of view of a man on the edge of death and consisting of seemingly random but wonderfully interlinked flashbacks, gives a slice of one man's life. Grant Morrison's work on this one

relatively insignificant character is exceptional, giving us neither a hero nor a villain but a journey. Steve Parkhouse's art is possibly his strongest work ever. A great issue that could convince non-comic readers of the value of the medium. (IRS) 10

<+> A bizarrely told tale, detailing the life and times of one soldier in non-chronological order. Steve Parkhouse's art lends a certain charm, but I was beginning to wonder how it all hung together when the revelation came that the story stood as a commentary on violence. Maybe not so throwaway as Grant Morrison wanted. (NL) 7

<+> An engaging tale, spotlighting one of Mr Gelt's security guards from the first issue. The narrative is neatly paced and easy to follow; this is no mean feat, considering how it jumps about the character's life. The art, by Steve Parkhouse, is effective, and reminiscent of his *Big Dave* work for **2000AD**. The ending ties in with issue one, a clever way of wrapping up the first year and bringing us full circle. (ST) 8

<- -> The last single-issue story, which chronicles a soldier's life from childhood to death at the hands of King Mob. Unlike the other two issues in this sequence, this feels like a filler, the only link to the conspiracy being the fact that the soldier was a guard at Harmony House in issue one. (GSD) 8

## Legion of Super-Heroes 72

*by Peyer + McCraw & Moder + Boyd*

<+ +> As the Legion bids farewell to the latest casualties of war, Andromeda and Apparition, the safety of Legion membership is brought into question. A superbly crafted, passionate tale from Tom Peyer and Tom McCraw, while artists Lee Moder and Ron Boyd have hit their stride. (SiB) 8

<+ +> The after effects of the White Triangle's attack hit the Legion as it buries two members. Cosmic Boy begins to crack under the pressures of leadership, and looks headed for a breakdown. This issue is even better than the last — as surprise for me, as Mark Waid didn't co-write it this time. (GSD) 8

## Legionnaires 28

*by Peyer + McCraw & Chin + Carani*

<+ -> The Legion Espionage Squad is reactivated as undercover Legionnaires capture and interrogate human White Triangle members. Tom Peyer touches on the issue of torture and how far one should go to achieve an objective. Tony Chin does a good job here, but the stream of guest pencillers is becoming wearing. (GSD) 8

## Legionnaires Annual 2

*by Waid + Peyer + McCraw & Moy + Carani*

The White Triangles move to destroy the United Planets, starting with Earth. Legion and Workforce combine to stop them, but are hit by a tragic loss. Great writing and Martin Moy's best art yet combine to make this an excellent book. (GSD) 8

## Moonshadow 12

*by DeMatteis & Muth*

<+> The tale of Moonshadow's coming of age comes to a suitably enigmatic end — has our hero made it all up? J. M. DeMatteis delivers what may be his best writing — intelligent, quirky and with astonishing emotional depth. For me, and with Jon Muth's gorgeous watercolours in this latest issue, **Moonshadow** has been *the* highlight of the past 12 months in comics. (MB) 10

## Power of Shazam 6

*by Ordway & Krause + Manley*

<+> While Billy Batson indulges in a free meal, courtesy of Freddy Freeman's grandfather, the villain-out-of-time, Captain Nazi, has difficulty adjusting to the modern world. An improvement on last issue, but still lacking the zest of the graphic novel and first issues. Perhaps an appearance from Tawky Tawny is needed — who needs Lobo or Batman when you can have a talking stuffed tiger as your guest-star? (ST) 8

<+ -> With Captain Marvel battling the revived Captain Nazi, Freddy Freeman — scholar, sports ace and all-round good guy — finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. Well-structured, lucid storytelling, with an unashamed innocence that is neither sentimental or naive. A terrific title to introduce young children to comics. (SF) 7

## Preacher 5

*by Ennis & Dillon; Vertigo*

<+> Jesse, Tulip and Cassidy start their search for the currently missing God among the filth of New York City. Meanwhile, two of New York's Finest (one of whom may be doing unspeakably nasty things) search for a particularly monstrous serial killer. Writing and art are, as ever, excellent. Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon are obviously very sick individuals, pouring out their most vivid fantasies in these pages — please God (wherever you are) let them continue to do so for a very long time. Oh, and this issue has what is possibly the best cover art ever seen on a comic. (IRS) 9

<- -> Cassidy takes the Preacher to New York for someone to help them find God. In New York too is the un-luckiest cop in the world and his hyper-hard partner, Bridges. But Bridges has a secret. **Preacher** feels as if it's lost a bit of momentum, but no doubt it will get it back once this story starts properly. (PaW) 8

<+> A sadistic serial killer is on the loose as Jesse and company arrive in the *Big Apple* to begin their search for God. Despite being a rather quiet follow-up to the previous cataclysmic issue, this issue is still a month-on-month improvement on the last. The new location, topped with big belly laughs, make this an ace read. (NL) 9

## Robin 20

*by Dixon & Wieringo + Woch*

<+ -> A psychopathic child named Ulysses pits Robin against a rather peckish Lion, and when he's survived that, against a whole street gang! The real buzz this issue is Ariana's decision to leave home so she can stay with Tim (Robin), the boy she loves. The development of the relationship between these two characters is masterful, thanks to Chuck Dixon — and supported by some stylish visual work from Mike Wieringo. (SiB) 8

## Sandman Mystery Theatre 30

*by Wagner + Seagle & Davis; Vertigo*

<+-> This excellent story gathers pace as Rex Tyler, the mysterious Man of the Hour, figures in Wesley's dreams and prompts an investigation by the hero. Meanwhile, Rex's good deeds for a put-upon family backfire disastrously. Both writing and artwork on this overlooked title are consistently excellent. (MB) 8

## Shade 63

*by Milligan & Case + Bryant*

<-> The *Nasty Infections* storyline concludes as Shade tears apart his past to create a new beginning. Richard Case's artwork is growing stronger, but despite being as distinctive as ever, Pete Milligan's script seems a little rushed at the end. The result is an issue which, although impressive, is not as satisfying as usual. (IRS) 7

## Sovereign Seven 2

*by Claremont & Turner + Moore*

<- -> In a very disappointing issue, the Sovereign Seven team lose a member and discover another world in a cellar. Chris Claremont's return to superhero comics is turning out to be an enormous letdown, and Dwyne Turner's art seems all style and no substance. (GSD) 4

<+> Better than last month, if only because Chris Claremont begins to define the various characters, giving us hints about their histories. There is a typically nice art job from Dwyne Turner and an amusing Wolverine cameo. But the possessed-teamster-battles-comrades plot is hardly original ... (PS) 7

## Starman 10

*by Robinson & Harris + Grawbadger*

<+> Jack Knight's apparent weakness for women brings him into conflict with Soloman Grundy. The battle itself is incidental as the issue serves more as a scene-setter for coming events. James Robinson's talent for observing the minutiae and petty foibles of life is much in evidence, and the artwork is as strong as ever. (IRS) 8

<+> Another busy issue, with all the players moving into place for the next story arc. Shade warns Jack about the poster demon and its immortal guardian, Ted Knight gets another house guest and Nash completes her transformation into the new Mist. James Robinson and Tony Harris really are producing some excellent work. (GSD) 10

<+ -> The Shade warns Jack about the existence of an immortal contract killer. The Mist's daughter, Nash, begins a transformation, and Soloman Grundy turns up in Opal City sewer. The scene is set for Jack Knight to become the hero he once seemed destined to be. The team once again produce the quality story and art that for me has made this DC's best title. (SF) 9

## Superboy 19

*by Kesel & Grummett + Hazlewood*

<+> She's back! Yep, Knockout's back and she's knocking out Superboy in more ways than one (groan) as they help Valor fight for his life. Eventually they save him, but would he have been better off dead? Brilliant, from both writer Karl Kesel and penciller Tom Grummett, who knock out (double groan!) a powerful story. (SiB) 8

<+ + +> Valor is dying of lead poisoning, so Superboy places him in the phantom zone. But Valor is trapped inside when the entrance is destroyed ... Vastly superior to the first instalment, this issue ties up some loose ends from the **Valor** title and reintroduces a classic piece of DC history. (GSD) 6

## Superman: Man of Steel 48

*by Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke*

<-> Mutated monster sea-creatures attack Metropolis — but is Aquaman fighting for or *against* these oceanic beasts and can Supes stop either party? To be honest, I'm not bothered. This issue's storyline is just not believable enough, and the sketchiness of Jon Bogdanove's art has gone too far for me. (SiB) 4

## Swamp Thing 157

*by Millar & Hester + Demulder; Vertigo*

<+> The *River Run* tale shifts a gear as Swamp Thing ends his journey through Anna's book. We finally learn more about the author as drama gives way to her own story — that of a successful young woman whose life, because of unseen forces, suddenly becomes hell. In his best issue to date, Mark Millar shows us the horror of a life disintegrating without explanation, pulling us into Anna's life to the extent that the brief appearance of the title character is almost unwanted. Phil Hester's artwork is fairly standard for a Vertigo title, but suits the book perfectly. This is classic **Swamp Thing**. (IRS) 9

## Wonder Woman 101

*by Byrne*

<+ +> After months of gloom, John Byrne gives us a refreshingly humorous and intelligent hero. Despite being only linked fight scenes, the story is executed in style with some wonderful art. This is the best issue since George

Perez left. And it's great to see Diana back in the classic costume. (PS) 9

<+ -> Diana breezes into Gateway City, meets a friendly policeman who gets her involved in a bar brawl, followed in quick order by a trip underground and defeat at the hands of Darkseid! John Byrne starts in fine style; his writing is at its best and his artwork, while not up to his old standards, is still detailed and powerful. (SiB) 10

<- -> John Byrne's much-heralded overhaul starts with an very ordinary tale of a city threatened by gangs with unreasonably advanced weaponry. Scratchy art and a dearth of ideas make this début a major disappointment — and he actually manages to make Diana look *unattractive*. (IRS) 3

## MARVEL COMICS

### Avengers 389

*by Harras + Kavanagh & Laguna + Koblish*

<- +> The Sh'iar Stargate's been breached and old pain-in-the-butt Gyrich suspects the unhappy Deathcry's involvement. Bob Harras supplies some very welcome character development, notably of the equally unhappy (and mortal) Hercules. Fabio Laguna's fill-in pencils vary between clichéd and pretty good. All in all though, it's still below par. (MB) 6

<- +> More on Deathcry's mysterious exile when she receives messages threatening the Sun through the Stargate. A disappointing issue, with a dull script and weak art. (PS) 5

<- -> Deathcry's allegiance to the Avengers team is called into question in this issue, which features a fairly weak overall story concept and some below-par guest pencils again — this time from Fabio Laguna, who's a Jim Lee-cum-Mike Deodato stylalike. Rather disappointing after such a good run of late. (SiB) 6

### Captain America 443

*by Gruenwald & Hoover + Bulanadi*

<+ +> The mysterious Black Crow's prophecy to Cap says that in 24 hours the Avenger will be dead ... and Cap tries to make the most of his last hours (not unaturally). But when it comes to the crunch, has Cap really passed on? In fact, where *has* he gone? Mark Gruenwald bows out in great style with a superbly written swansong; artist Dave Hoover says his farewells in this issue, too. (SiB) 9

### Clan Destine 11

*by Dakin & Hitch + Lanning*

<+> Rory searches for the real Captain Britain with the understanding that the one in **Excalibur** is a fake (I certainly hope so). Back home, the rest of the clan come to terms with their recent injuries and losses. Writer Glenn Dakin turns up the juice and the introduction of brilliant Bryan Hitch pencils means ex-creator Alan Davis is no longer missed. (SiB) 8

### Doom 2099AD 32

*by Ellis & Royle + Kublish*

Persuaded by its reviews I tried **Doom 2099AD** and it really *is* impressive. Writer Warren Ellis handles themes most writers wouldn't begin to consider. Ellis's Doom is superbly visualised, and might even rival John Byrne's classic version. Here, Herod and the Anti-Doom corporate heads begin to plot, and Captain America's history is subject to revision. (MB) 8

<-> The Megacorps' contingency plan is revealed in the shape of a man named Herod, whose price for the overthrow of Doom appears to be world domination. Warren Ellis is providing his best work yet on this book — if only it had a settled, distinctive art team. (IRS) 7

### Excalibur 88

*by Ellis & Stroman + Smith + various*

<- -> Pete Wisdom and Kitty Pryde travel to London to find one of Wisdom's associates. They find him — dead — and his bosses come after them ... Warren Ellis maintains his form here, but Larry Stroman's artwork suffers from too many inkers. (GSD) 8

<+> Kitty and Peter Wisdom become involved in espionage and intrigue as they search for Wisdom's old partner. Warren Ellis is taking this title into interestingly dark areas with his consistently strong script and dialogue — failed here by the inconsistent performance of a committee of artists. (IRS) 7

### Force Works 15

*by Abnett + Lanning & Chueng + Garcia*

<+> Only US Agent can help Century when his master comes to

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claim him! A good script and an impressive artistic début from Jim Chueng make this a cut above the standard superhero title. And this is the first time I've been able to tolerate US Agent. (PS) 7

<+ +> The Force Works team are kidnapped by a group of aliens, and it's down to US Agent and the eerie Century to save the team and the day as Century embarks on a leave of absence. Maestro Dan Abnett conducts the orchestra superbly with co-writer Andy Lanning while new penciller Jim Cheung looks very promising. (SiB) 8

## Generation X 6

*by Lobdell & Bachalo + Buckingham*

<+ -> The kids rescue White Queen (who thankfully retains some of her nastier traits) from Gene Nation, and Husk's attraction for Chamber has literally explosive consequences. As usual, Scott Lobdell's characters and scripting are delightful. And Chris Bachalo's art helps make this what I consider to be Marvel's best title. However, Bachalo's taking a break: will fill-in hell now follow — and will he return? (MB) 9

<-> Synch, Jubilee and Skin mount a rescue mission to save the White Queen, but find her perfectly able to protect herself. Scott Lobdell, Chris Bachalo and Mark Buckingham keep up their great work, making this the benchmark against which other X-titles are measured. Unfortunately, this is Chris Bachalo's last issue for a while. (GSD) 10

<+ -> Scott Lobdell's script is delightful, offering an insight to all the characters, and Chris Bachalo's art is unbeatable. (PS) 9

<+> With her powers negated and held hostage by two second-generation Morlocks, the White Queen's only hope lies with her team of trainee heroes. Despite the continued use of the poxy Morlocks and the re-introduction of Artie and Leach this is still an entertaining read, though less impressive than the opening issues. (NL) 7

## Ghost Rider 2099AD 16

*by Kaminski & Wood*

<+ -> Ashley Wood's art on this title is a mixture of Jae Lee and Duncan Fegredo — which would be great if the layouts weren't so muddied. Len Kaminski's writing leans heavily on cyberpunk fiction (William Gibson's **Neuromancer**, in particular, springs to mind), but without the originality of other work in the genre. (DG) 6

## Incredible Hulk 432

*by David & Sharp + Riggs*

<+> Artist Liam Sharp signs off with best pencils yet, but Peter David's script steals the show. An incensed Abomination dukes it out with Bruce, who realises he has more in common with his antagonist than he may care to admit. There's a great swipe at the Spider-clone farce, delivered (appropriately) by J. Jonah Jameson. Definite and most welcome signs of a return to form for Peter David. (MB) 8

<- -> The Hulk versus Abomination storyline concludes, thankfully, in a blasé story from Peter David, who has throughout this saga struggled for some real sense of direction. For me, though, it is artist Liam Sharp who spoils things with a mish-mash of sketchy work that is frankly laughable. (SiB) 3

<-> The grudge match of the month, with Hulk goes up against the Abomination, the lives of the sewer-dwellers at stake. But things go awry and the Abomination embarks on a new mission. This title really needs to regain its sparkle — I think it's good Liam Sharp's about to jump ship: the art here is a blatant Simon Bisley rip-off and goes too far into caricature. (NL) 4

## Prime 24

*by Strazewski + Jones & Statema + Aiken; Malibu Ultraverse*

<+ + +> For the sake of his family stability, Kevin Green reveals his true identity of Prime to his mother, as we learn the origins of the transforming hero. Meanwhile, in an interesting development, Turbocharge (Prime's sidekick) tells his father that he's gay. Artist John Statema makes a stunning début this issue. (SiB) 9

## Punisher 2099AD 31

*by Dixon & Whigham + Villagran*

<+ -> Punisher tries to beat up his robotic counterpart, and Doom plots his demise. The writing here is average, possibly because of the constraints involved in such a large crossover. The art is appropriately gritty, but not particularly memorable. (DG) 6

## Silver Surfer 106

*by Lackey & Grindberg*

<-> The Surfer takes up Dr Doom's offer of saving the planet — and pays with his Power Cosmic. Although Mike Lackey 's idea of the Surfer losing his power is an interesting (and likely) one, the choice of the recipient, Dr Doom, seems weak and generally unfeasible. Hopefully things will improve once Galactus and Tyrant go head to head, as this subplot is by far the most interesting at the moment. Tom Grinberg's bland style makes the Surfer look weak and pliable, giving him the appearance of a roughly moulded piece of putty; and the colours are not particularly impressive. (DM)5

## Spider-Man 2099AD 35

*by David & Wildman + Baskerville*

<+ -> Spider-Man considers Doom's offer of a cabinet post. Peter David's scripting is not up to par, and Andrew Wildman's art is not the best this title has seen. The only really interesting thing is the visual similarity between the future Venom (introduced in this issue) and the lead character from the Vertigo series, **Scarab**. (DG)4

<+ -> Venom shows up to reunite himself (in a conflicted kind of way) with Spider-Man but, unfortunately for Venom, the present Spider-Man incarnation doesn't *know* who he is! Peter David's got the book back on track after a shaky spell, while new penciller Andy Wildman proves clearly impressive. (SiB) 8

## Spider-Man: The Lost Years 1

*by DeMatteis & Romita Jr*

Does this series feature the real, honest-to-goodness Spider-Man? And does anyone really care? OK, that wasn't very objective, but this whole clone saga is completely out of hand — even for a comic! For those not in the know, this series spotlights the original Peter Parker/ Spider-Man when he decided to become the Scarlet Spider (because he thought he was a clone. The Spider-Man who has featured in the last decade or so apparently *is* a clone ...). Also featured is the enigmatic Kaine, another PP clone. Considering the ludicrous premises, J. M. DeMatteis and John Romita manage to inject some depth into the principle players. But anyone who isn't a regular reader of Spider-Man should give this a miss as they will find it bewildering — I certainly did! (ST) 3

## Ultraforce 9

*by Kanalz & Wolfman & Royle + Whiting; Malibu Ultraverse*

<-> New Ultraforcers Siren and Black Knight are integrated as members as the team deals with a plague terrorising the city. Sound stuff, but the might of George Perez's visuals is sorely missed. John Royle is good, but the Perez detail and layouts are a real loss. (SiB) 7

## Uncanny X-Men 324

*by Lobdell & Cruz + various*

<- -> Most of this issue is concerned with a battle between the X-Men and Gene Nation, a storyline of which only the subplots are at all interesting. What really lets it down though is the art, which has plummeted from bad to worse under the three inkers. (PS) 4

<+ -> The below-par run continues as Gambit's mystery (yawn!) deepens while Logan, Storm and Cannonball confront two members of the ubiquitous Gene Nation. Scott Lobdell's writing has slipped below his own high standards, while artist Roger Cruz does his Joe Madureira impressions, which merely serve to emphasise how much the regular maestro is missed. (MB) 6

<-> Standard X-Men art fare as Rogue and Iceman continue their crosscountry journey while the remainder of the team clashes with representatives of Gene Nation. But Scott Lobdell still seems to be suffering from an *After-X* hangover, making this a rather unsatisfying read in comparison to his work on **Generation X**. (IRS) 6

## What If... 76

*by Austin & Immonen + Austin*

<+> What if ... Peter Parker had to destroy Spider-Man? In *this* reality it is Flash Thompson who receives a nibble from the radioactive Spider and *he* becomes Spidey ... albeit an evil one. This forces Peter Parker to become a *second* Spider-Man — without powers — to oppose him. A most interesting scenario, with some brilliant artwork from Stewart Immonen. (SiB) 8

## Wolverine 92

*by Hama & Kubert + Green*

<++> A major improvement on the last issue as James and Heather Macdonald come to check up on Logan's deteriorating mental state. Larry Hama's portrayal of the various X-folks is (as usual) spot on. And you have to ask why he hasn't been promoted to writing **X-Men**. Adam Kubert is now the definitive **Wolverine** artist, but I do wish he could go six issues without deadline trouble. (MB) 7

<+> An improvement on recent issues as Guardian and Vindicator (of Alpha Flight) run tests on Wolverine to see exactly how he's shaping up ... and why his Healing Factor is going wild — together with his attitude. Writer Larry Hama gives the book a firm direction again, and artist Adam Kubert's return is most welcome. (SiB) 8

<++> Guardian and Vindicator arrive at the mansion and proceed to subject Wolverine and Sabretooth to a battery of tests to find out what is happening to the them. Larry Hama's writing is back up to scratch, and Adam Kubert makes a welcome return. (GSD) 6

## Wolverine/ Gambit: Victims 1

*by Loeb & Sale*

A serial killer is attacking women in London and while Gambit tries to track down the murderer, he begins to suspect that it might have been Wolverine wot done it ... a hunch seemingly proven correct! Intensely written by Jeph Loeb with some atmospheric, dark, yet legible artwork from Tim Sale. It's a cracker. (SiB) 8

A stylishly executed series by the underrated team of Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale — their **Challengers of the Unknown** mini for DC is a must-read and can probably be found in bargain bins. In this title, Gambit travels to the UK on the trail of a modern Jack the Ripper. The trouble begins when the prime suspect turns out to be Wolverine. There is an excellent marriage of words and visuals here, a prime example of the care and attention to detail that Loeb and Sale have given this project. (ST) 9

## X-Factor 113

*by Moore & Bingham + Milgrom*

<+ +> The so-called new X-Factor races to find Havok before other interested parties reach him. The title has now hit rock bottom, with the interesting characters either dead or dying — and this issue's artist is even worse than the regular guy. The last page's revelation concerning Scarlet and Fatale's masters is of reasonable interest to fans, but can't help save

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this title. (GSD) 4

<-> Abducted and with his powers cancelled, Havok's only hope is the team of rookie heroes ... Hey, is this **Generation X**? This is terrible. The Japanese location is overused — again. The whole comic, story and art, is a drab mess. (NL) 3

## X-Force 45

*by Loeb & Pollina*

<+> Caliban beats up Sabretooth and the X-Force males encounter the Mimic. Caliban wants revenge for what Sabretooth did to his people, and in this issue he has it, to some extent. A superlative front cover and generally good inks and pencils make this **X-Force** visually stunning. Jeff Loeb's writing is up to scratch, and his development of Boomer engaging. A high quality outing, in all respects. (DM) 8

<+> Recovering from recent events, most of the team make an emergency trip to Russia, where they find a forgotten hero ... Meanwhile, Boomer and Sam's romance is showing signs of strain. There's not actually a lot of a plot in this issue, but it's a great read that cracks along nicely. And Adam Pollina's art brings a fresh energy to it. (NL) 7

<+> Caliban takes brutal revenge on Creed for the mutant massacre, Sam and Boomer fail miserably to get it on and Cable runs into The Mimic. Jeph Loeb has turned this title into a quality read, aided by Adam Pollina's stunning and distinctive pencils. Second only to **Generation X** among the X-titles family. (MB) 9

<++> Caliban seeks revenge for Sabretooth's slaughter of the Morlocks. Beast discovers some facts about Shatterstar, and X-Force encounter The Mimic in Russia. With Jeph Loeb and Adam Pollina at the helm, this book has risen up the ranks of the X-titles and is now among the best of them. (GSD) 7

## X-Man 6

*by Loeb & Skroce + LaRosa*

<+> The semi-amnesiac X-Man is holed up with wholly amnesiac Madelyne Pryor. Sinister schemes are in the air as people begin hunting for the eponymous hero. Independent of much of the X-line, this is one of the best of the group, with its able scripting and spectacular artwork. (NL) 7

## X-Men 43

*by Nicieza & Smith*

<- - -> In a startlingly original plot twist two groups meet, misunderstand each other's motives, fight, and then work together to save their skins. The issue, however, is saved by a reasonably effective cliffhanger and some wonderful artwork. (GSD) 6

<+> While Holocaust and Exodus clash aboard Avalon, Scott and Jean attempt to get everybody else off the station in one piece. Fabian Nicieza puts in a good, suspenseful script after years of dross, and it is perfectly complemented by Paul Smith's linework. (NL) 8

<-> Avalon disintegrates as the Holocaust/Exodus battle continues — leaving everyone else the small problem of getting back to Earth safely. Ironically, Fabian Nicieza's scripting is improving as his tenure nears its end. And Paul Smith's art is significantly better than last month's. (MB) 7

<-> The battle between Exodus and Holocaust continues with Cyclops and Phoenix thrust into its midst. Paul Smith's guest art is, once again, very welcome. But Fabian Nicieza is still overwriting. The story is fairly well plotted, but the script is loaded with unnecessary explanations, with the characters spouting seemingly endless clichés. (IRS) 6

## X-Men 44

*by Nicieza & Smith*

<+> Either I've got used to Paul Smith's art or it has improved since last month. Fabian Nicieza is also doing some of his best writing at the moment, even if the script *is* a bit weak. (PS) 7

## X-Men Archives: Captain Britain 1

*by Thorpe & Davis*

The early tales of Captain Britain and Jackdaw, his long-dead partner, are recounted in this début issue. The Captain is reborn and back on Earth with a new costume and a new purpose. The colouring and lettering are rather unclear, and Alan Davis's artwork is rather rough, but despite all that, it's well worth seeing once more. (SiB) 6

At long last, the early Alan Davis Captain Britain tales are being collected in a fairly affordable package. The art isn't as good as Davis's current stuff, and the dialogue and lettering occasionally spoil the effect, but it's a blast seeing these strips again after so long. And in colour too — although they could have taken a bit more time with that. (NL) 6

The eight episodes reprinted here form the foundations on which Alan Moore based his critically acclaimed *Jaspers Warp* story. They lack the vibrant pace of future episodes and tend to be a bit stilted in terms of dialogue and character interaction. But they *are* entertaining and of note is the fact that the first episode is presented (for the first time) in its original format. If you're a real anorak and have a copy of the original, you can compare the differences (I know I did). (ST) 7

## X-Men Classics 110

*by Claremont & Romita Jr*

<++> This issue's battle with Freedom Force could have been nothing but a long fight scene, but Chris Claremont takes time out to give us some character snapshots. This title tends to be the best X-book, so it's rather unfortunate that it is the last issue. (PS) 8

# INDEPENDENTS

## Assassinnette 1

*by Dixon + Ball & Pascal;*
*Pocket Change Comics*

Oh dear. This comic, about a psychologist who can enter others' minds and slay their inner demons, has absolutely no redeeming features whatsoever. Even the enhanced cover is naff. Avoid. (MK-H) 1

## Bacchus 2

*by Campbell; Eddie*
*Campbell Comics*

<+> Eddie Campbell's new storyline: *King Bacchus* — about a pub that declares itself an independent province of Britain — gets off to a stonking start, and the updated reprint of Deadface's first storyline is tootling along nicely. As good an ongoing series as you're likely to find at the moment. (MK-H) 7

## Bartman 5

*by Morrison + Glasberg*
*& Massara + Escobar*
*+ Bavington; Bongo*

<-> Bartman returns, but gets hurt and is unable to search for the kidnapped Milhouse. Enter Lisa the Conjuror and the Great Maggeena. This weaker second of the three-part story stretches parody too thinly and the laughs are too far apart. (SF) 5

## Cerebus 195

*by Sim & Gerhard;*
*Aardvark-Vanaheim*

<+> There are only 20 pages of comic strip in this 56-page. The rest is made up of the customary large letters page, a preview of **BugHouse** by Steve Lafler and a letter to the head of Capital Distribution. The comic is fab, as usual, and although *I* find the other material interesting, it may not interest the average comics buyer. (DG) 10

## Battle Binder Plus 1-6

*by Rulia 046; Venus/Antarctic*

Hmm. Not much happens in any way in this series. The art is nice if a little *shojo* — but the writer seems to start off with gusto and then lose interest halfway through, skipping from one scenario to another without any proper explanation. A disappointment. (PaW) 4

## Bondage Fairies 1-6

*by Kondom; Venus (Antarctic)*

The story of an inexperienced hunter-fairy, Pfil, seized by three vengeful sisters who want to keep her as a slave. Each have different motives: is the male slave Masopic really as broken as he appears? And will Pfil's partner, Pamilla, return in time? It's explicit, violent, and surprisingly well-written, putting the western lot to shame. Soon to be collected. (PaW) 9

## Cerebus 196

*by Sim & Gerhard;*
*Aardvark-Vanaheim*

<+> Dave Sim's revelations about his creation continue with the disclosure of how close to greatness Cerebus has come in the past, only to foiled by his own weaknesses and stupidity. Dave Sim's work is as strong as ever, his vision's scope for this series more impressive each issue. (IRS) 9

## Dawn 1

*by Linsner; Sirius*

Nobody can deny the power of Joseph Linsner's art, and his storyline was even better than I expected. But he seems to have lost something since his **Cry For Dawn** days. Still, it's an enjoyable read with a sexy cover. (MK-H) 6

Darrian leaves New York and goes in quest of heaven after an encounter with Dawn. The artwork is absolutely gorgeous, beautiful full-colour painted all the way through. The writing is loaded with symbolism, so it's not a light read; the other Dawn stories are better territory if you're looking for information. (PaW) 8

## Freak Force 17

*by Giffen & Larsen &*
*Bridges + Hunt; Image*

<+ -> Various plot resolutions come to the fore in this penultimate issue, including an inkling as to why Dart resigned from the team so swiftly. The usual excellent writing has superb support from the artwork team. (SiB) 8

## Ghost 4

*by Luke & Haley + Simmons*
*+ Hendrix; Dark Horse*

<+> Barb Wire (Pam Anderson-style) shows up to help Ghost rescue a young girl from the clutches of an evil cult. But for the girl, it appears that her only release is death. A moving story from Eric Luke, while the presence of guest-artist Matt Haley means that at least Adam Hughes isn't missed. (SiB) 8

## Glory 3

*by Duffy & Deodato Jr; Image*

<+> There's a man in Glory's bed, but he's dead. A fantastic start to the issue, and it gets better. Glory fights to clear her name of a murder charge while keeping one step ahead of a horde of demons. It's fun, it's superbly written, it's well drawn — it's a rarity! (SiB) 9

## Gojin 2

*by Takizawa & Kondo; Antarctic*

<+> Aliens disguise themselves as young children and attack, retire defeated and merge with the otherwise peaceful Waira woodland monsters. The script doesn't seem to gel, and the art varies between quite okay and utterly confusing. Don't bother. (PaW) 5

## Gunsmith Cats 2

*by Sonoda; Dark Horse*

<+> After an encounter with a revolver freak at their shop, the girls doubt whether they should have dealt with him. So they begin to investigate what he's going to do with the gun. After all, it wouldn't look good for a "Rally Special" to be used in a murder! Nice art with an action-packed story. (PaW) 8

## Hate 19

*by Bagge & Blanchard;*
*Fantagraphics*

<-> Buddy discovers that his new business venture has its share of problems, mainly in the shape of his drug-taking, till-dipping partner. Although it's still one of the funniest comics around, the comic has been sliding ever since it went to colour. Nowadays it's more like — er, **Dislike**. (MK-H) 6

<- -> Buddy and Jay get their shop opened, but it isn't long before tensions arise. Jay keeps taking money from the till and disappearing, and Buddy won't take it for long. The colouring works well with the art, but the writing seems to have lost some edge. (PaW) 7

## Jar of Fools 1

*by Lutes*

A small, intensely personal tale about an alcoholic, unemployed magician and his relationships with his aging mentor, his ex-girlfriend, a small-time conman and his dead brother. Brief and episodic, this tale tells far more of the characters' lives with small gestures and short conversations than most other creators could manage with large slabs of text. This is a genuine, instant classic, vaguely cinematic in its approach but actually storytelling that could only be this effective in comic form. Jason Lutes has proved here the standard that comics can achieve and that more creators should aspire to. An incredible piece of work. (IRS) 10

## Kabuki: Circle of Blood 3

*by Mack; Caliber*

<-> Set in a future Japan, **Kabuki** is a story of political manoeuvres and corporate criminality with an iconic assassin. David Mack's intricate artwork and engrossing storyline mark him as a major talent. This is, by far, the best example of the bad girl genre. If only all comics were this good. (MK-H) 8

## Killer Fly 1

*by Butler & Hogg; Slave Labor*

The **Skittle-Sharpers** and **Timble-Riggers** team have produced a straightforward narrative for their American début, but their customary sense of uneasy familiarity still pervades this tale of circuses and cruelty. Hogg's thick-lined, grainy art is as effective as ever. (MK) 7

## Killer Fly 2

*by Butler & Hogg; Slave Labor*

<+> It becomes apparent in the complexities of this issue that the circus is a depressive's metaphor for the real world — despite that it's still funny! The narrative is superior to the last issue's, the art as good. This could turn out to be one of the comics of the year. (MK) 9

## Magnus Robot Fighter 56

*by Giffen & Grey + DeCarlo; Valiant*

<+-> Magnus continues his rehabilitation and reintegration into society, courtesy of the mysterious Rai. Things are going well for Magnus — and then he's shot through the chest right at the end. Just one of those days! Lovely, atmospheric artwork from the enigmatic Grey. (SiB) 9

## Maison Ikkoku 4 #6

*by Takahashi; Viz*

<- -> On the third anniversary of Soichiro's death, Kyoko reads her late husband's diary and is worried by one of the entries. As if that weren't enough, her mother starts nosing into her life again on a quest for grandchildren! You can feel the venom when the two meet. (PaW) 8

## Maison Ikkoku 4 #7

*by Takahashi; Viz*

<+> Yusako and friend Sakamoto go to the entertainment district to greet the high-school freshmen. Then Sakamoto leaves him in the lurch. A shy young woman, Eriko, drinks too much and Yusako's left, outside a hotel, wondering whether he should rent a room for the night. Then Kyoko turns up. (PaW) 9

## Milk and Cheese 666

*by Dorkin; Slave Labor*

<+> No story, just a collection of strips featuring Milk & Cheese, the dairy products gone bad! *Tenement Cook-Out, No Feelings* and *Darth Vader Overdrive* are literary classics, destined for the anals (correct spelling, there) of history. Violent, and very funny. (PaW) 9

## Ninjak 24

*by Gonzalez & Ross Autio; Valiant*

<+-> The South American jungle is the scene of the one of Ninjak's greatest challenges; to avoid drowning in a rapidly-flooding pit and to track down an insane scientist who is planning to poison major cities in a desperate bid to halt deforestation. Well written and drawn, with definite signs of development in Ninjak's once bland personality. (SiB) 8

## Oh My Goddess! 2 #5

*by Fujishima; Dark Horse*

<- -> Keiichi's only got one more exam, but his motor club friends only want to party. To help, Belldandy makes a copy of him to keep the party occupied while he studies. Confusion and undeserved reputations ensue. Dark Horse is still skipping and swapping the stories about, which doesn't help the series. (PaW) 7

## Penthouse Comix 7

*by various; Penthouse Comix*

On the whole, this is terrible. The only strip worth reading is *Backlash*, but it's very short. Really, the only thing that prevents this being a complete loss is the BatWoman front cover and the anime ad on the back. Sad. (PaW) 3

## Ranma 4 #6

*by Takahashi; Viz*

<- -> Ranma finally gets hold of the Spring of Drowned Man

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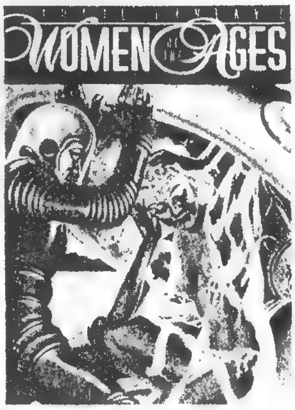

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powder, but at a cost. The drama club play comes along and Akane takes the part of Juliet. Hormones rise when it comes to casting the main man! Nicely paced and drawn, as ever. (PaW) 8

## Shanda 9

*by Curtis & Light; Antarctic*

<-> Terri finally persuades Shanda to go with her to the gay bar, Woolf's Lair. She meets RR's cousin, Pandora, there, and suddenly her relationships begin to look complex again. Who does she love, Richard, Terri, or both? A legal **Omaha** [as in **The Cat Dancer**] and Light's gorgeous *manga* artwork style suits it. (PaW) 8

## Solar Man of the Atom 50

*by Jurgens & Giordano; Valiant*

<+ -> The *Brave New World* saga winds up with a full explanation of events of late, leaving Solar obliged to return to his original world and face the music. This, however, presents further problems on his new planet. Writer/artist Dan Jurgens concludes a fine storyline in fine style. (SiB) 9

## Solar Man of the Atom 51

*by Jurgens & Grindberg + Giordano; Valiant*

<+ -> Solar returns to Earth, but stops to think things through on the Moon. There, he encounters a race of aliens collecting species for a child's museum. They agree to leave the Moon provided they can destroy the Sun to power their ship. New artist Tom Grindberg steps in on the book with his inevitable Neal Adams-style visuals. (SiB) 8

## Spawn 33

*by McFarlane & Capullo; Image*

<-> The Violator returns, and this time he's not fooling. This is bad news for Spawn, who's having enough problems already. A tad less development than usual and a noticeable lack of direction. And although the art *is* great, it's still not enough. (SiB) 7

## Strangers in Paradise 5

*by Moore; Abstract Studio*

<- -> Katchoo is troubled by dreams of her dead lover, Emma. Francine bumps into her (soon to be remarried) ex-fiancé, Freddy. And Mr Digman lands in a serious mess in hospital with Katchoo as prime suspect for perpetrator! This book deserves the praise it has received — the artwork is impassioned, and the script is superb. (PaW) 8

## Stray Bullets 4

*by Lapham; El Capitan*

<+ -> An unsettling issue about a runaway girl and an adult who picks her up. Is he going to molest her, corrupt her... or does he have something else in mind? Dave Lapham keeps us guessing up to the last page, and it's an uncomfortable journey getting there. This is quality stuff. (MK-H) 8

## Turok 32

*by Truman & Gulacy + McLeod; Valiant*

<+> The Radio Men invade the Lost Land and capture Turok's friends, forcing him to come to their aid knowing that he could be killed doing so. The best Turok story to date, dazzlingly realised by penciller Paul Gulacy, who really turns up the steam — although he's spending a lot of time drawing nearly naked women. Oo-er! Missus! (SiB) 8

## Union 5

*by Heisler & Mhan + Gibson; Image*

<+ -> As Ohmen and Jill begin reaping the rewards of Union's work with Stormwatch, a mysterious female character transports Union to a parallel world ravaged by the evil Necron. And yes, it's Union's job to right the wrongs of the planet. Mike Heisler writes, once again, a gripping tale. Incoming penciller Pop Mhan makes an average but promising début. (SiB) 7

## Union 6

*by Heisler & Mhan + Gibson; Image*

<+ -> This issue features Ohmen in an alternative reality where slavery and poverty are rife under an evil dictator's rule. As Union battles to save the planet — and return to his own Earth — he realises that victory could cost him his life. Great script, and the art's coming along nicely in places. (SiB) 7

## Vanity Angel 1-6

*by Asano; Venus/Antarctic*

A story of two *very* close women, Melon and Non. Melon has strange psychic powers over which she has little control at the best of times, but they go into meltdown whenever Mr Yajima comes near! Fortunately, Non is always at hand. Nowhere near as explicit as **Bondage Fairies**, **Vanity Angel** comes across as harmless fun, with an innocence about Melon and Non's relationship. The art is sometimes simplistic but cute, and the translation is fluid and funny. (PaW) 8

## The Visitor 12

*by VanHook & Ross + DeCarlo; Valiant*

<+ -> Physical problems begin to plague the Visitor and we get tantalisingly close to finding out his secret identity in a superbly

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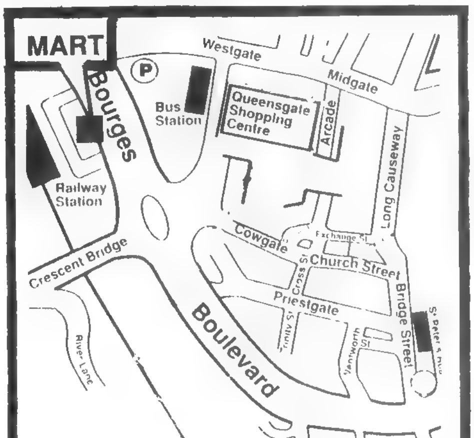

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written and drawn epic. Number one suspect, Pete Stanchek, is running around as "Harbinger" and helps Vizzy take on the Men in Black. My money's on Stanchek or maybe Archer from Valiant's earlier days. (SiB) 8

### X-Files 6

*by Petrucha & Adlard; Topps*

<+> In the conclusion to the three-issue arc, the entity reaches critical mass. After a dodgy start, this final episode saves the entire story with a very fast, suspenseful script. Charlie Adlard's art here shows his great feel for perspective. (NL) 7

### X-O Manowar 50

*by Marz & Sears*
*+ Kryssing; Valiant*

<+> X-O battles against Alloy, an evil offspring of X-O armour parts combined with the body of Aric's long-dead friend Paul, who is sentient once more — and bitter and twisted to boot! What ensues is an action-packed battle, superbly written and drawn by Bart Sears. (SiB) 9

### X/1999 #2

*by Clamp; Viz*

<-> Kamui seems to be a big hit at school with all the girls, but when Kotori approaches him he gives her the brush-off! A leisurely pace, with quality *shojo* art — long flowing lines and meticulous detail when needed. (PaW) 7

## UK TITLES

### Action Man 1

*by various; Tower Magazines*

Basic thriller action for the very young, played absolutely straight but with touches of humour in the editorial text. The much-touted fan-favourite artists appear to have drawn very fast, with their feet. Unfussy 7-year-old children might like it. (MK) 2

### Batman/Dredd: The Ultimate Riddle

*by Wagner + Grant &*
*Critchlow + Power; Fleetway / DC*

<-> This third team-up between the Dark Knight and the Mega City lawman is a major disappointment. Batman and Dredd are brought together in a gladiatorial contest by an enigmatic character named Xero. The writing is surprisingly low-par for John Wagner and Alan Grant, and the art, by Carl Critchlow and Dermot Power, does little to salvage this endeavour. **The Ultimate Riddle** smacks of nothing more than a time-filler for the *very* delayed **Judgement on Gotham** 3. Will we ever see it? (Perhaps if Glenn Fabry took a break from doing covers for DC!) (ST) 4

### Best of 2000AD 119

*by various; Fleetway*

<-> In the final issue of this black and white reprint title, *Ace Trucking Co.* are on the dangle, Rogue Trooper (the original, that is) meets The Fanatics and Tharg gives us two Future Shocks — the only one of note is *Fruitcake and Veg* (Morrison & MacNeil). Not the best selection with which to end the series, but fun, nonetheless. (ST) 7

### Bunty Summer Special

*by various; DC Thomson*

Presumably as a result of having to produce self-contained stories rather than the usual serials, the writers have replaced the customary theme of triumph over difficulties with a carefree spirit of compromise. Still, it is a summer special. And it does serve as a useful introduction to the **Bunty** style for the uninitiated! (MK) 5

### Buster 14/95

*by various; Fleetway*

Fascinating to see Fleetway parodying one of their own properties in *Judge Dudd* — and rather well. Otherwise it's gags as usual, with outstanding work by Sid Burgon and Lew Stringer. (MK) 6

### The Complete Judge Dredd 42

*by various; Fleetway*

<+> The chronological reprint of Judge Dredd's **2000AD** adventures continue. The best in this issue are *Saturday Night Fever*, *Aftermath* and *13th Assessment* (the latter features the début of cadet Brisco, who has a brief cameo in the Dredd movie). Classic Dredd at a reasonable price, with an excellent Frank Quitely cover. (ST) 8

### The Complete Judge Dredd:

### Special Edition 2

*by various; Fleetway*

<+> A 132-page value-for-money deluxe special, reprinting a selection of Dredd tales from the various annuals and specials outside the weekly **2000AD** run. The pick of the bunch includes the fully-painted *Last of the Bad Guys* (Wagner & Higgins), *In the Bath* (Wagner & Baike), *John Cassavettes is Dead* (Grant & MacNeil) and *Leviathan's Farewell* (Grant & Austin). (ST) 9

### Judge Dredd: Lawman of the Future 1

*by various; Fleetway*

Tying in with the film, Fleetway's new Dredd title is aimed at a younger audience than **The Megazine**. Here, extreme violence

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# Press Release

## Planet X to Close!!

Matt Jones, owner of Planet X, Announced yesterday, July 10th, That he was closing his Planet X Comic Book shop, at 5 London Road, Worcester, from August 1st 1995, In a letter to customers he say's

"We are now one of the largest mail order comic businesses in Europe, Our advance ordering system customer base continues to grow each month, making it unrecognisable from the "cottage industry" type business I started 5 years ago."

"My shop has, like all Comic Shops, seen a reduction in comic sales over the last 2 years, making it now only marginally profitable, and in many ways a hindrance to the servicing of our mail order customers. Although I am sad to close something I have worked at for 5 years, I have to be realistic and concentrate on the areas of business in which I see a long and profitable future. We will still be opening our shop on Fridays and Saturdays each week, for the placing and collecting of orders, and still will encourage all the friends We've made over the years to drop in for a chat and coffee as normal, just bear in mind that our retail service will be limited to advance orders only. Access to my 100,000 Back issues will still be available."

"From August 1st we will be able to get on with what we are best at, and what we enjoy doing, that is the retail distribution of advance order comics and merchandise. Given the fracturing of the wholesale comics market, We believe retail customers will be looking more and more to a professional company able to provide the full range of comics material each month, with guaranteed delivery and prices. Planet X is able to fulfil all these needs and more Via post, telephone, FAX and coming soon the Internet.."

Anyone requiring information about the full range of Planet X advance order services, should send their name and address to Planet X, 5 London Road, Worcester, WR5 2DJ, we will send you the next months advance order list from which you can order, or, If you require our full order pack (Usually over 600 pages of information, sent free to all customers ordering over £25.00) Please include A cheque or postal order for £5.00. This amount is fully refundable against your first order. There is a minimum order value each month of £10.00.

### CLEARANCE SALE

From Monday, August 14th to Saturday August 19th We will be conducting a complete clearance sale of the contents of our shop, There will be a MINIMUM 50% reduction on EVERYTHING, All Collectors and Dealers will be welcome during this period, no reasonable offer will be refused for anything . A "Job Lot" offer for everything that is left at the close of play on Saturday night would also be considered.

— something that seems synonymous with Dredd — is forbidden. In spite of this, the three featured stories are entertaining, and reminiscent of the early Dredd tales from **2000AD**. A promising start. (ST)7

## Judge Dredd Mega Special 8

*by various; Fleetway*

<-> A mixed bag of Dredd tales. Highlights include: *Raptaur Returns* (Grant & Cromer) *Through the Perphole* (Rennie & O'Ready) and *Fat Bottomed Boys* (Morrison & Hicklenton). The rest are fairly mundane. (ST) 5

## Judge Dredd Megazine 83

*by various; Fleetway*

<+> Final issue of volume two — will **Megazine** ever reach one hunDredd? (Although technically it did, with over 80 in vols 1&2.) The first of the two Dredd tales features the return of Agnes "Laser-Gaze" Bolton, champion starer. This is lightweight but entertaining. Harke and Burr, the Cursed Earth antique dealers, return in a tedious and painfully unfunny strip. The *Plagues of Necropolis* series comes to an end — this was a good idea that promised much and failed to deliver. The second Dredd tale, *Face of Justice*, is a rare look at the compassionate side of Dredd — which is dodgy ground as he isn't supposed to have one! *Missionary Man* is a reliable read, but the muddy, indistinct art by Jamie Read spoils an otherwise interesting look into the character's past. (ST) 7

## Judge Dredd Megazine Vol 3 #1

*by various; Fleetway*

<+> A new look for volume three, and much has improved besides. Alan Grant and Arthur Ranson's much-hyped *Satan* storyline finally arrives, making life difficult for PSI Judge Anderson. The Missionary Man has a shave, puts on some swanky gear and heads down the Mississippi to investigate the mutie slave trade. Promising. Harmony returns — I must be the only one who doesn't see the appeal of this character. The two Dredd stories are both concerned with Mega City weddings. The best, by Gordon Rennie and Pete Venters, depicts a bridegroom willing to do anything, even break the law, to get to the church on time. The free gift is a Dredd film supplement, focusing on the work that went into bringing the Mean Machine to the big screen — a vast improvement over the puerile *Femmes Fatales* thingy from last year. (ST) 8

## Manga Mania 25

*by various; Manga Publishing*

What's this? Something published by Manga Publishing that's actually a *manga*? It's true. Behind a poor rendition of an Adam Warren cover, you'll find the usual reprinted strips and flimsy articles. And it's still printed on bog-paper, even after a 55p price hike. Don't get me wrong, the strips are good, but there's nothing new here, and Manga Entertainment have blocked the (much better) American graphic novels. (PaW) 4

## Viz 72

*by various; John Brown Publishing*

Britain's best-selling comic still succeeds in accurately parodying the tabloids and turning the **Beano** formula inside-out, and in the process becoming pretty much what it aspires to satirise. Of note are *The Modern Parents* (repressing kids in the name of political correctness), and a very Pythonesque extravaganza, *Biffa Bacon*. (MK) 6

## 2000AD 948

*by various; Fleetway*

<+> Dredd exacts revenge on the bounty hunter Jonni Kiss in the final part of *Goodnight Kiss*. Fun, but a little insubstantial. The solid *Nightmare Patrol* (Kek-W and Shaky 2000) is this issue's Future Shock. Rogue Trooper takes on the corrupt Clavell Corporation and Finn gets beaten about by Crusader. However, the highlight of this issue is the introduction of Eddie Cassavetes in *Tracer*. (ST)6

## 2000AD 949

*by various; Fleetway*

<+ -> No major change in quality from the last issue. The original Rogue Trooper goes out in a blaze of glory, Finn's mammoth *Interventions* story reaches a conclusion and Dredd experiences a *Blowout* in a double-length story. (ST) 6

## 2000AD Sci-Fi Special 18

*by various; Fleetway*

Most of the material is new, but the feel is that of **2000AD** as it was 15 years ago. *Dredd, Rogue Trooper, Ace Trucking*: punchy and witty scripting — this is worryingly superior to the regular weekly. What on earth went wrong? (MK) 8

Behind a Kevin Walker/movie cover lies an average anthology book. Highlights include two pin-ups showcasing new artistic talent and the stories: *Mean Machine* (Rennie & McCallum) and *Venus Bluegenes* (Morrison & Sampson). (ST) 5

# SMALL PRESS

## Big Comic 1

*by Peter McCanney; 37 Castle Avenue, Swords, Co. Dublin, Eire; A5 22pgs; £1.00*

The story, jump-cutting between dreams and small Irish town nightlife, and the art — all clear lines and expressionist facial cartooning — remind me of Jaime Hernandez. But Peter McCanney is good enough to have absorbed his influences and has remained his own man, producing in the process a highly commendable comic. (MK) 6

## Defective Comics 96

*by Glenn Cooper + Ralph Horsley; 18 Fields Park, Newbridge, Gwent, S Wales NP1 4NQ; A4 22pgs; 75p*

A bit of a pain as a jumping-on point, as all three strips conclude their stories this issue. Nevertheless, this is a big upswing in overall quality. The scripts throughout are engaging and easy to follow, while the art by Glenn Cooper and Ralph Horsley is very strong. (NL) 7

## Dole Scum

*by Nigel Auchterlounie; Flat 3, 18 Brunswick Place, Hove BN3 1NA; 16 pg mini-comic; send SAE*

This is a quick but fun read, detailing the various schemes two layabouts devise in order to replace their broken TV and to fill the gap in their lives. Nigel Auchterlounie has a very clear, humorous style, making this a joy. (NL) 8

## Hungry Hearts 1

*by various; The London Cartoon Centre, 14 Conlan Street, London W10 5AR; A4 32pgs; £1.60*

It's remarkable how many of the contributors to this romance anthology have chosen to satirise their subject matter — an example of **Viz**'s influence, perhaps? Whatever, it contains some fine work by students and professionals. Paul Grist's masterful, mature version of a typical **Bunty** episode is worth the price all by itself. (MK) 7

## The Infernal Gods of Electric Disaster 5

*by Pete Dorée, 12 Cowslip Road, South Woodford, London E18 A4 20pgs; £1.50*

Off-duty musos tend to drink, smoke and talk about booze, women and kids' TV programmes. Pete Dorée's script captures the friendly, bitchy feel of such conversations perfectly, and is supported by accomplished, deceptively relaxed art. (MK) 8

## My Life Story 3

*by David Metcalf; 25 Blascomay Square, Colne, Lancashire BB8 0SG; A5 32pgs; 90p*

<+> Another issue of the slice-of-life anthology, again achieving a unified feel by using artists of similar styles. This issue sees the continuation of the main Jennifer and John soap opera, backed up with an excellent strip about a young male transvestite and a man who wakes up with a dead body. (NL) 8

## Panelhouse 1

*by Fiona James; 7 New River Crescent, London N13 5RD; A4 36pgs; £1.50*

A professionally produced, glossy 'zine, **Panelhouse** is another discussion mag that has sprung up to fill **Battleground**'s place. With material on Kirby, Bagge and Pratt plus various little sub-sections, the overall package is perhaps a bit lightweight; but it's an enjoyable read that doesn't look overblown in the professional format. (NL) 7

## Red Sands 1

*by Alex Ronald, 71 Ashgill Road, Lambhill, Glasgow G22 6QL; A4 24pgs; £1.50*

Clean, strong art with finishes strongly influenced by Carlos Ezquerra rescues this science fiction "badlands" tale from strangulation by a welter of expositional scripting. With tighter writing, this should become a title to watch. (MK) 5

## Shockwaves 1

*by Joel Nisbet + various; £1.80 from Joel Nisbet, 39 Ruth Cl, Stanmore, Middlesex HA 1HQ*

Another vastly promising writer and artist, Joel Nisbet, creates his own superhero universe with four different strips, all crude but visibly talented. His writing is far and away ahead of his art, imaginative, confident, well-paced and suspenseful. (FPB) 6

## The Staring Eye 1-3

*by Ed Pinset & Denny Derbyshire; £1 to Ed Pinset, 43 Finsen Road, Camberwell, London*

Ed Pinset — master sorcerer and father of the small press, finds a sinister soul in Ms Denny Derbyshire, whose opening story in **The Staring Eye** 1 has more than a touch of genius about it. An ongoing series to give you many more new and interesting slants on reality. (FPB) 9

## The Tempest

*by Garen Ewing; 8 Kennedy Avenue, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2DE; A4 40pgs; £2*

I hate Shakespeare but bought this because I love Garen Ewing's finely detailed art. This is a modern-language adaptation of the bard's story about a ship's crew washed onto a mage's island. The superb strip is accompanied by a few articles relating to *The Tempest*. This is not only one of the best small press comics I've ever read, but one of the best *comics* I've ever read, and therefore I cannot recommend it enough. (NL) 10

## Three in a Bed 6

*by Jeremy Dennis; from P.D. Cugley, 255b Banbury Road, Oxford OX4 7HN; A4 24pgs; £1.50*

<+> This depiction of the seething sexual hotbed that is university life is accurate, explicit and witty, with Dennis showing a fine ear for dialogue and an often vicious style of cartooning. A fine comic — but if you hate students you really won't like it a bit! (MK) 8

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

*The latest news, views and rumours in our ever-popular independent look at the hits, misses, prices, projects and people making comics news. Reported by the ever mysterious and controversial team of investigative diggers and delvers known to the world only as ITMA.*

## Stark raving mad

WHILE just about every Marvel superhero has undergone major change over the last three years, there is one character who, by virtue of the fact he is constantly evolving, has not been touched by the Merry Marvel Revamping Society: Iron Man.

But now, new series writer Terry Kavanagh is about to blow away thirty years of continuity with a startling (and some say crazy) new plot twist. Tony Stark, playboy multi-millionaire and part-time genius and entrepreneur, is about to have his past blown to smithereens.

The Tony Stark we have grown to know, the Errol Flynn lookalike with almost as many romances as superhero battles, the man who overcame the big battle with the bottle... isn't the real thing!

In a bold attempt to attract new readers to the **Iron Man** comic, Kavanagh is retconning the Armoured Avenger, right back to the very first few appearances in **Tales of Suspense**.

The premise for the story is that Tony Stark was so badly injured in Korea (see **Tales of Suspense #39**) that he couldn't possibly continue wearing the bulky iron armour, so he programmes a state-of-the-art LMD (Life Model Decoy) with his own brain waves to replace Tony Stark, while the real item spent years in intensive therapy trying to overcome his injuries.

The story apparently starts with the original Tony Stark returning from suspended animation and entering into a bitter battle with his android counterpart for control of his armour and his company. The twist: is he really Tony Stark or is this just some insidious plan by a knowledgeable villain, such as the Mandarin. Or is this the Spider-Clone saga take two?

## New kid in town

MOVE over, Stephen Platt. Take a seat, Jim Lee. Start packing your bags, Todd McFarlane, there's a new guy on the scene and the Americans are going wild over his unique style.

Trent Kaniuga, a 17 year-old Californian, has been stunning the comics press in the States ever since his publisher, Lightning, sent out promos of his first comic, **Creed**.

**Creed** is written and drawn by Kaniuga and is about a thirteen year-old boy who discovers that he has an entire universe living in his head and tells how he must come to terms with things such as talking frogs and walking daisies.

Already the comic has been called a cross between **Bone** and **The Sandman**, while Kaniuga has been heralded as a major new artistic sensation.

If initial orders are anything to go by, **Creed #1** could be the biggest selling comic in Lightning's troubled history and one of the largest selling independent comics of the year. Not bad for someone who was only discovered last year at San Diego.

The 17 year-old is said to be happy producing **Creed** for Lightning Comics — he had originally self-published the series in black and white. Lightning, who suspended publication of all their titles last year due to poor sales, is pushing the new talent with a massive advertising campaign and Steve Zyskowski, publisher of Lightning Comics, said he felt Kaniuga was destined to go on to big things.

How long before the majors start courting the kid?

## Star Trek sting

TRADING card dealers at the recent Cheshunt mart achieved poetic justice after a fellow dealer had implied in a newsletter that other dealers were "ripping customers off", by charging inflated prices for the new *Star Trek Voyager* cards.

The outspoken dealer, apparently a novice to the game, was quite vocal in his accusations and made a firm commitment to his customers that he would undercut any dealer at the mart. At 11.00am, as the doors opened, he put his price for the *Voyager* cards at £6.95 a set, as opposed to all other dealers' charging £9.95.

A rival dealer, trading directly opposite to the cheap card man, then set his price at £6.95, handed his mobile phone to his assistant and moved away from his table, a fellow dealer's phone in hand.

Minutes later, he saw that the price of his competitor's *Star Trek Voyager* cards had dropped to £5.95. The dealer promptly told his assistant to drop their price to £4.95 (losing approximately £1 on every set sold). He then went to every card dealer in the mart and offered them a chance to buy bulk *Voyager* cards for £3.95 a set, but to wait until he signalled them.

Within minutes of the mobile dealer putting his price down to £4.95, the new dealer dropped his price to £3.95. In the following incident (similar to the stock market scene in Eddie Murphy's *Trading Places*) on the agreed signal every dealer descended on the newcomer's table and bought every single set of the *Voyager* cards for £3.95, a full £2 under the wholesale price!

As the dust settled, the now deprived *Voyager* dealer saw that the price of the *Star Trek Voyager* cards was again up to £9.95, at the table opposite and at every other dealers table.

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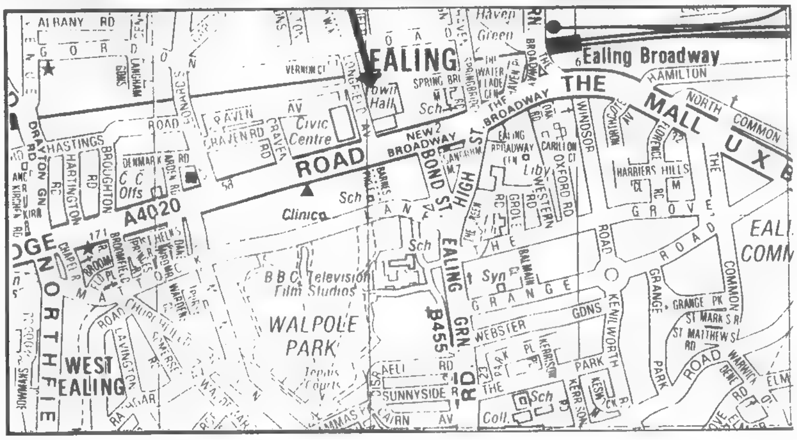

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## The ultimate riddle

*BATMAN Forever* took more money in its first week than any other movie in the history of the cinema. Despite some very poor reviews, the film is set to become one of the most profitable movies ever made.

*Judge Dredd* has received excellent reviews, is doing very well at the European box office and has firmly reinstated Sylvester Stallone as a major draw.

Yet DC/Fleetway's **Batman-Judge Dredd: The Ultimate Riddle** only managed to limp into Capital City's independently researched comics top 100 at number 79.

Do tie-in feature films do anything for comics sales any more?

## Wow, man, it's Wisdom

THERE has been a mixed fan reaction to Warren Ellis's present run on **Excalibur**. Most X-fans have given him a far less rough ride than they gave Scott Lobdell or Howard Mackie, with many quite happy with the direction Ellis has been taking.

However, the general consensus among readers on the Excalibur team's latest member, Pete Wisdom, is one of confusion. The former member of the British Secret Service division, Black Air, has almost been forcibly introduced to readers over the last six months (not including the *Age of Apocalypse* storyline) and the character has firmly taken centre stage with the recent *Dream Nails* storyline, teaming up with the intangible Kitty Pryde.

Pete Wisdom's power includes the ability to generate beams of energy from his body which appear in the form of "hot knives" — a well known term amongst the festival fraternity. An eagle-eyed ITMite spotted Pete's first display of power (in **Excalibur #87**) and suggested to Warren that the new hero's power was the ability to get his enemies totally stoned.

Warren laughed, saying that no one in the X-office had got the joke, except maybe Bob Harras, who it is said laughed like a drain.

## Dan the Man

DAN Jurgens is being courted by Marvel with a view to the top creator taking over one, maybe two, of Marvel's oldest heroes.

The big rumour is that Jurgens is to handle writing and drawing either **The Amazing Spider-Man** or **Spider-Man** after this autumn's **Scarlet Spider** takeover concludes. Jurgens, who was once reported to want to handle the **Fantastic Four**, is said to be interested in writing the Web-Slinger, but would also like to develop a brand new hero for Marvel.

## Top 10 hottest sellers

WHILE the recent back issue market in Britain has been as changeable as the weather, in the States the bad girl books continue to reap huge rewards for the dealers.

Here's the latest top ten best selling back issues in the US:

- **Shi #5**, the issue with the variant Marc Silvestri cover (a prelude to his **Cyblade/Shi** story) is about as hot as you can get at the moment. Dealers in the States, already impressed by the impact Shi has had on the comic-buying public, can literally name their price on this book which was allocated one in every four ordered.
- **Gen 13 #1** with its multitude of variant covers caused more grief in this country than it did smiles, but the philately mentality has always been stronger across the Atlantic where investors are buying up all but the most common cover.

The two most popular covers at present are the "do-it-yourself" version and the Fifties retro film poster cover. Both copies sell for as high as $40!

- **X-Files #2** has eclipsed issue #1 as the really hard comic to find. A case of the oft talked about "terrible twos". Even retailers in the States didn't expect the series to be a success and the very conservative orders for the first issue were substantially dropped for issue two.

The book is arguably the most difficult recent comic to find and despite umpteen second printings circulating, demand for this genuine collectors' piece is still incredibly high. Expect it soon to be as much as double the price of issue one!

- **Lady Death #1** is the first appearance of the buxom blonde in her own solo comic and young Americans are paying as high as $50 a copy for it.
- **Shi** again, this time with her very limited print run first issue. There are only 40,000 copies of this very popular back issue in circulation and as many as 5,000 of them were returns from the UK and Europe. This was because the copies which were for export were not printed with the red embossed cover — the price is now as high as $75.
- **X-Files #1**, while not in as high demand as issue two, is still riding high and now the speculators have started to push the price up as high as $100.
- One of the shock inclusions in the US top ten is **X-Man #1**. Not only did it have a high print run, it's also an **X-Men** issue one!

The fans have taken to the newest addition to the X-Men family and demand for this issue has outweighed all the other *Age of Apocalypse* tie-ins. Even issue two (another case of the terrible twos, perhaps) is selling for considerably more than when it was released.

- Despite mediocre reviews and less publicity than he would have hoped for — given his recent high profile, Joe Quesada's **Ash #1** has proved to be a hot item with the Americans.

The first issue didn't quite sell enough to make distributors' top 50 charts — it averaged 55th place. But, despite the print run possibly being in the region of 100,000, prices are now exceeding $15 a copy.

- **The Maxx #1**. One of the finest comics to emerge from the Image stable and thanks, largely, to the success of *The Maxx* on MTV, this sublimely well written comic is

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finally receiving the attention it deserves. The first issue is now selling for $10.

● The last comic to make the top ten is a DC comic! And it's not a Superman or Batman comic.

**Wonder Woman**, a title which for most of its forty year run has epitomised mediocrity, was transformed by the team of Bill Messner-Loebs and Mike Deodato Jr and now the first issue of the Brazilian artist's run (#85) is selling for upwards of $5.

Not a lot considering the prices being asked for the previous nine issues, but a quick and substantial rise on its $1.50 cover price and a real first for the Amazon princess — a back issue success.

## *Into the valleys*

WHILE **Comics International's** Dez Skinn and Sarah Bolesworth were experiencing this year's San Diego Comic Convention, Phil Hall was on holiday in Wales — hoping to have a week away from comics in general — leaving Kerry Hurley to hold the fort.

On Phil's second day in a remote valley in the Brecon Beacons, he wandered into a olde worlde newsagent and, somewhat amazed to see them in such a remote place, pointed out to his wife copies of the latest **Comics International** on the shelf. "Do you like comics?" asked the man behind the counter.

"Uh, sort of," said Phil.

"I've got a box full of them out the back if you want to see them?"

Expecting **Bunty** and **Beano** 1992 vintage at best, Phil was amazed a second time in ten minutes. The box had about 75 assorted Marvel and DC comics from as early as 1970. Despite having given up dealing in comics over two years ago, Phil couldn't resist a trio of gems.

An almost perfect copy of **Fantastic Four #100**, an **X-Men #66** and an **Astonishing Tales #25** (the first Deathlok) were the unpassable lures. The cost of these three rather scarce items: 10p each!

When asked why he had comics as much as 25 years old in his box, the newsagent and general store manager said, "I've run this place since 1968. My wife says I hoard too much, but I just took 30p more than I would have if I had thrown them away." Both men seemed very happy with the transaction.

## *Diamond: everything but the Kitchen Sink*

OKAY, so how did Diamond pull off such a coup as to get all top four publishers (behind Marvel) under exclusive deals, while Capital has, so far, only secured exclusivity with Kitchen Sink?

Could it be that Dark Horse felt it had to go with the flow? Were they worried that if they, alone, went to Capital, they'd miss out? With DC and Image, Diamond would be a supplier for every single US, Canadian and UK retailer, whereas Capital would only attract the smaller indies and fewer retailers?

Or could it be that Capital really didn't compete because they couldn't see any sense in being brokers on a reduced flat fee or percentage?

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*Another San Diego ComicCon has come and gone. But, outside of DC displaying a full size working model of the new Batmobile, this year's (renamed Comic Con International - no relation) had little to offer. Once more it had shrunk from the previous year, with the Expo attracting an estimated 33-40% fewer retailers than in 1994. The publishers' stands were far less impressive, possibly reflecting an industry which has already peaked and is now in decline. In fact, the week's main events were purely trade items with the announcements of which publishers were teaming up with which distributors.*

*One interesting comment made to associate editor Sarah Bolesworth and me by almost all publishers present concerned interest in expanding in the UK. While our own retail trade has remained relatively intact through the last few years of speculative highs and post-spec lows, America has been badly hit. With the seemingly common knowledge that the UK contributes greatly towards the viability of non-superhero titles such as the Vertigo range, it would appear that a UK push may be forthcoming from other publishers with a more European approach.*

*America's loss could be our gain! ...Dez Skinn/Editor*

# LETTERS

**COMICS INTERNATIONAL**'s letters column is your forum for opinion on publications, writers, artists, prices, market trends and anything else connected with the industry. As such, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. Letters intended for publication will only be edited as a grammatical or space consideration. Please to certain to include your name and full address, anonymous letters will not be published.

**Comics International Letters, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ**

### Michael Leddy
### 42 Dristernan, Co. Leitrim

I WAS delighted to read in *Frame to Frame* (**Comics International** #57) that the animated Batman TV series is still in production. Is this definitely true? I've read elsewhere that it ceased after 85 episodes.

Having seen all the episodes of this brilliant series, I would be delighted if it was back in production.

In future, will *Frame to Frame* be covering shows that, while not in production, are currently being shown somewhere? For instance, *Superboy* (Saturdays, Sky One, 10:30am) is the best superhero show I've had the pleasure of seeing. Gerard Christopher, unlike Dean Cain, has the correct look for the role of Superman and the episodes are the closest thing to having a comic-book put up on screen week after week. *Lois and Clark* (which the list omitted) is easily the better show of the two but the villains tend to be idiots, the plots tend to be slight and Dean Cain is a fairly pathetic Superman.

*Superboy* treats its villains seriously. The plots are fuller, the stunt work is stunning and Gerard Christopher, as I said, is the perfect Superman. Anyone who saw the recent Bizarro episodes had a real treat. They were easily on a par with Byrne's Bizarro story and the great five-parter from early '94. And this was TV! The *Microboy* episode had an amazing live-action fight scene that put all of *Lois and Clark*'s CSO efforts to shame.

*Superboy* is written by the comic writers, Carlin, O'Neil, Bates, etc. *Lois and Clark* is by the *Midnight Caller/Knot's Landing* people!

And while Teri Hatcher is the, ahem, "hottest babe" on TV, *Superboy*'s Stacy Haiduk runs a very close second.

Don't cast me as a *Lois & Clark* hater. It's close to being my favourite show, but remove the scene-with-costume, and call it *Jack and Jill* — it's essentially the same programme.

So, does anyone else like *Superboy*? And, I wonder, what do other readers consider the best translation of a comic series to the screen? Why not ask the question and run some answers in a future *Frame to Frame*? My vote goes to *Superboy* ... or did you guess?

*Frame to Frame's Mike Conroy replies: US movie industry trade journals are still listing the Batman series as being in production, so they should know. But as I had my own doubts, I'm still awaiting a reply from the production company.*

*On Superboy: these are not new programmes and while it would be great to alert readers to all broadcasts of interest, with an ever-increasing number of satellite networks and regionalised cable channels, it's almost impoosible to keep track of. However, major additions are being noted.*

### Mike Kidson
### 12 Ivanhoe Road, Liverpool 17

A COMMENT on the current debate in your pages: Mike Deodato Jr's figure drawings are anatomically implausible and his layouts, with enormous panels and plenty of pin-up pages, can be difficult to decipher and definitely make for a seemingly insubstantial "speed read". Is he, then, a bad comics artist? He is if you assume that recent developments in superhero art are inferior to the achievements of the "old masters".

That assumption seems to have underpinned most of the entries in the recent debate about Deodato's work, and I suggest that it's questionable. By the same reasoning you could compare Picasso unfavourably with, say, David on the grounds that he drew a woman with both eyes on the same side of her nose, or you could claim that Schoenberg wasn't as hot as Beethoven because he didn't write tunes. Few would bother to make such comparisons, on the reasonable grounds that Picasso and David or Schoenberg and Beethoven lived in different eras, were subject to different influences and consequently saw the world in different ways.

The same applies to comic artists. If comparisons have to be made between Deodato and, say, Neal Adams, then should we not also compare their influences? Take movies, an influence on all comics artists since the Thirties. Adams' taste for photo-realistic figure work reflects the movies of the Fifties and Sixties, in which acting, and therefore the facial expressions of actors, was of primary importance. Deodato's work reflects a newer kind of moviemaking, in which the actors are frequently subordinated to special effects, and spectacle is at least as important as characterisation. Surely we can't say it's inferior, only different.

Time, of course, may lead to other more dispassionate judgements, made according to different criteria. For now, the bottom line is that the approach to layouts and figure work employed by Deodato, Jim Lee and any number of Image artists is enormously popular.

Do we have any right to dismiss the opinions of their fans on the grounds that "things were better in the old days"? I don't think so.

Speaking for myself, I'll settle for being impressed by, in a mere ten issues, Deodato turning **Wonder Woman** — the most hopelessly unfashionable comic to have survived cancellation for 40 years — into a hot item...

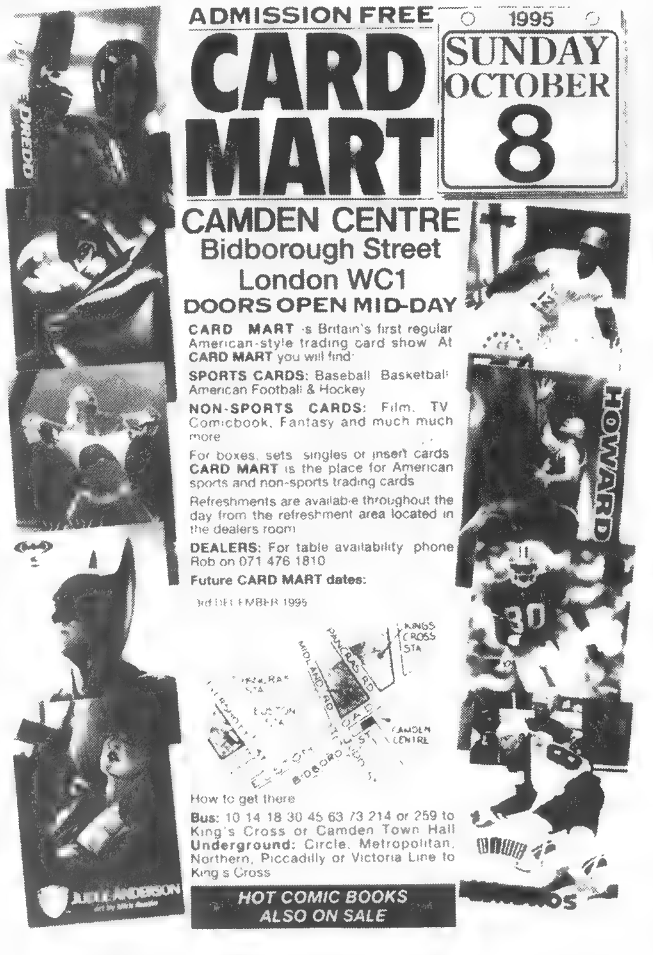
*But, ironically, Mike, good ol' boy John Byrne — upon taking over from Deodato — has boosted sales on* **Wonder Woman** *to higher levels than the post-MTV Image-style ever achieved. Anybody care to explain that one?*

### Ian Salmon,
### St Oswald's Lane, Liverpool

A WORD of explanation. In **Comics International 57**, I gave the latest issue of **Sandman** a mark of 10. It seems that I was in a minority (amongst reviewers at least) in holding that particular issue in such high regard.

I am firmly of the belief that, as this title draws to its inevitable close, it's so much *of* itself that any given issue can only be viewed as a chapter of a much longer work and therefore must be judged on how far it achieves its aims in the terms of the larger tale.

If you consider the last issue with this in mind, I think the true effectiveness of Neil Gaiman's work is more readily apparent. The story concerned itself mostly with *closing*, every character seemingly aware that they were acting out roles dictated for them long before. If, as the two marking the issue less kindly remarked, the events of the last issue were an anti-climax, surely that in itself is a comment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on the inevitability of those events.

That, in itself, is proof enough to me that the issue achieved the aims that it had set itself; its function was to serve as a culmination of plotlines hinted at as long ago as the first issue.

I read that particular issue three times before even thinking about reviewing it, my opinion of it changing with each reading, my appreciation growing each time. It is an issue I believe I will return to many times in the future and feel sure that, as in all truly great fiction, I will discover new facets each time. A well deserved 10.

Having said all that, the new issue is possibly even better. Containing some of the most gorgeous artwork I have ever seen in a normal, ongoing title (as opposed to a prestige one-shot), this issue has the new lord of dreams reconstructing his domain and recreating the supporting cast that was lost in the *Kindly Ones* storyline.

It has been argued elsewhere that the major subtext of this series has been the role and manner of storytelling; the fact that seemingly lost characters can be reworked by a new storyteller would seem to uphold that viewpoint.

This facet of the tale is combined with the surviving members of the cast mourning the loss of their Dream. The fact that these brief cameos by inhabitants of past storylines carry such resonance stands as testament to Neil Gaiman's work on this title and the true level of his achievements here.

Most notable in this issue, most touching, is the depth of sorrow shown in the mourning of Matthew the raven for his dead master. Think about what I have just said. That is the mourning of a *raven*.

I don't think I'm claiming anything revolutionary in stating that Neil Gaiman is a great writer, not just a great writer of comics, but a truly great writer whose work transcends the medium that it appears in; a great storyteller of great stories. I stand by my 10.

**Roger Myers**
**43 Winchgrove Rd, Bracknell**

I COME down on the side of people like Andrew Harvey and Paul Houston who acknowledge that Marvel's move makes good economic and business sense. Their aim is to make a profit, and, just like most other corporations around, they'll make their business plans and moves based on what they consider to be the best way forward to achieve that end.

As some of your writers suggested, this may all prove to be something over nothing. The comics industry has gone through all sorts of changes, each one greeted with cries of dismay spelling the end of the industry — yet that has not happened. I wouldn't be surprised to see that in a year's time all the prophets of doom are proved wrong.

The letter that really got my goat was the comment by Frank Miller, obviously full of bile and seeking to settle a grudge or two through his vitriolic words. Either he's conveniently forgetting that comics is a business and is run as such by its owners or, as mentioned above, he's taking the opportunity to bite the hand that once gave him his first big successes. Marvel run out of steam? Sorry, from what I've seen of Frank's recent work, that could be applied to him. His original bright ideas and masterful drawing has descended into a scratchy attempt at setting moods which (in my humble opinion) gloriously fail and which do not attract me to purchase them.

Like all the other prophets of doom, Frank seems to blame all the ills of the world on Marvel, rather than acknowledge that as a business they've made what they consider a sensible move.

If Marvel's actions mean the closure of other distributors — the consolidating of power and distributorship (even of competitors' titles) in their hands and subsequently the chance to affect the marketplace to a greater degree in the future — then that's nothing more than good business strategy. Although we may mourn the passing of some of the elements in the current comics scene, surely that is not something a corporation such as Marvel will be too concerned about.

Sorry, Frank. Nice little rant and rave but plainly obvious (I'm sure) to anyone as to where your sensibilities lie.

Thanks for a fine publication in **Comics International**. It's still the *first* thing I read when I (eventually) collect my comics — keep up the fine work...

*Somebody recently posed an interesting —albeit contentious— question about the comics industry: why do all the top creators work on turgid concepts and the turgid creators work on top concepts. As Mrs Merton would say, "Something for us to think about there".*

**Mike Lepine,**
**Burton Lazars, Leicestershire**

I WENT into a comic book shop today — and came out without buying anything. £1.60 for a $1.95 Marvel book? Forget it.

I've been a collector for over 20 years. I estimate I regularly spend £120 a month on new comics through comic book shops. That's over. That's finished. That's £120 a month I'm spending elsewhere.

The speculators are gone, the industry's base for attracting new customers is weak (to say the least) and now surely even the core customer base of long term committed purchasers is being progressively alienated and driven away by rocketing prices.

So paper has gone up. So why use more expensive paper? And why pump up the prices further for fancy covers no-one wants and stiff me fifty cents for two useless trading cards in a polybag? If this regular comic book format genuinely is this expensive to produce, then look at alternative formats. Look at increasing advertising revenue to offset costs by adding a couple of folios to the book. Look at sponsorship for a title. *Toys-R-Us Presents the Uncanny X-Men*? Why not, if it helps bring the prices down from the stratosphere?

Look to taking advantage of advances in computer-to-plate technology and pass the savings on. Look to printing outside North America. And here's a simple idea: don't gyp us on the dollar exchange rate. 85p to the $? Really? Justify it.

And speaking of Marvel, I have a valuable, money-saving idea especially for them. They should sell off their recently-acquired distribution network and basically, distribute their product straight up themselves. If nothing else, given the quality of most of their titles, it has an attractive ironic symmetry.

Comics are not worth the prices we're now being asked to pay — not even the best. Not **Preacher**, not **Hellraiser**, not **Sandman**.

Fortunately, as Baldrick said, I have a cunning plan. I don't have to pay these prices to carry on collecting. I know that if I wait a few months, I can go to any comic mart and pick up most of these £1.60 titles for around 50p from dealers desperate to dump their overstocks. I can buy DCs at least, at rock-bottom prices, through The Comics Warehouse. I can go to the dealers advertising half-price sales and my, aren't there a lot of those these days? I can go to second-hand shops that sell comics. *That's* where I'll spend my £120 a month.

Maybe I'll see you there...

**Vlad Quigley**
**22 Warwick Road, Worthing**

I'VE just started receiving **Comics International** through the Comics Creators Guild and I've really enjoyed what I've seen so far — crammed solid with interesting things (though I wouldn't mind seeing some "Sez Dez"-styled editorials making a comeback).

*It's bad enough that two generations have grown up on Sez Dez in various titles from **Judge Dredd** to **Spider-Man**, without us inflicting it on a third, Vlad. (Vlad? You wouldn't be an old **House of Hammer** stalwart by any chance?)*

**Dene Conway**
**2 Duchess St, Nottingham**

I REALLY enjoy your new columns *Frame to Frame* and *NETworks*, and of course browsing in the classified. But I prefer the old newspaper style covers.

*So did we, and it was cheaper. But it was too intense for newsstand casual sales. Given that we've reached a ceiling in comics shops, we're now offering a more attractive look with a glossy cover in conjunction with boosting our print run to fill the newsstand gap left by the departure of Comic World. Yes, two editions! Anyone for cover variants? Check the small print below this cover's issue number to see which version you're buying! Dez*

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For sale: Dark Horse, Image, Marvel, Valiant plus other independent comics. Please specify titles you're seeking. Send SAE for list. Patrick Bell, 120 Glasgow St, Dumfries DG2 9LL.

For sale, Power Records (1975) 9 assorted 7" records: 3 *Star Trek* stories, 2 *Batman*, 2 *Superman*, 1 *Spider-Man* and 1 *Frankenstein*. In exchange I would like any Herb Trimpe **Hulks** or Hulk appearances in **Tales to Astonish**. Any grades. Contact Laird Poland, 11 Kilndale Terrace, Kirkcudbright DG6 4BX.

American and British comics for sale: Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, Malibu, **2000AD**, **Eagle** etc. 1000s available. Also, grab bags, books, graphic novels, action figures: *G.I.Joe*, *X-Men*, *Terminator 2*, *Turtles*, Marvel Superheroes. A4 SAE for list to Andrew Edwards, 10 Punchards Down, Follaton, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5FB.

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For sale: **Amazing Spider-Man** 1 apparent nm-, white pages, slight colour touch, also trimmed. Therefore price is only £3900 ono. Also **Avengers** 1 fn+ £400 ono. Contact Clem at Halswell Farm, Woodland, Ashburton, TQ13 7LR. Tel 0136 465 2628 or 0171 794 7909.

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Are you selling your comics? Are you handwriting your list? Have you got scruffy handwriting? Then you will find selling your comics difficult! Don't despair - I will type your list to your requirement. I don't want cash, but I will take some comics. Contact Mo, 14 Walsall Rd, Darleston, W. Midlands WS10 9JJ.

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I am selling my entire collection of over 1000 comics (X-titles, **Avengers**, **Teen Titans**, many one shots and specials) for £350 or nearest offer. Send SAE for list to: Peter Phillipps, 49 Lombardy Rise, Leicester LE5 0FQ.

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Import comics, latest editions, advanced order or standing order available: Marvel, DC and independents. Best prices locally: $1.50 only 85p; $2.25 only £1.30. With minimal postage and a free catalogue for every order over £18. For details contact Collectors Comics: 0166 442 4465 (eves & weekends), 97 Boundary Road, Mountsorrel, Leicester LE12 7EP.

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## WANTED

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Wanted: any *Red Dwarf* magazines and merchandise. Also, **Hero Illustrated** 22 (with **X-Files** comic). All prices considered. Damian Brierley, 24 Kintyre Rd, Portsmouth PO6 3UH.

Arrrgh! I thought I had my Hellboy collection under control but that Mignola chappie has been doing a strip in **Advance Comics** very quietly. The sneaky git! Has anyone got the issues with parts 1-5? If so please contact Simon, 5 Oriel Road, Sheffield S10 3TF. Tel: 0114 230 2392. Will buy or swap.

Wanted: **Tom Puss Comics** (Birn Brothers, 1949) will pay £150; **Panda Comics** (same series, 1949) will pay £100; **Tom Puss in Rhymeland** will pay £100, **Jack & Jill** all colour gift books (edited by A. Mills) will pay £40. Piet Koudenburg, Cortenhoeve 14, 2411 JM Bodegraven, NL - Netherlands.

Wanted: comic related trading card sets, will swap fantasy art sets, eg: *Frazetta* 2, *G. Hildebrant* 2, *Star Trek Next Gen*, *Jurassic Park*. Two single *Hildebrant* 2 cards wanted (37 & 50). Will swap *Elm Street* 2 & 3 videos for any decent card sets. Contact M. Rees, 8 Heol-Y-Parc, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch, Nr. Porth, Mid Glam CF39 8RH.

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Wanted: **Usagi Yojimbo, Outlanders, Akira, Appleseed, Ranma, Area 88, Critters, TMNT, Furlough** and similar titles. I am trying to complete my collection of the above titles. I have some duplicates to swap. Write to Yanez Sambiglyon, 58 Wildcroft Drive, Dorking, RH5 4TL (or email Yanez@pipex.dial.com).

Late 1960s ('67-'69) Marvel comics wanted for private collector. Cheap prices please. Send lists to Darren Hirsh, 84 Howberry Road, Edgeware, Middx HA8 6TF.

Does anyone have: **Skye Blue** 1-2 (Mu Press); **Blood and Kisses** 2 (Fantaco); **Strange Attractors** 7 (RetroGrafix); **Dark Visions Publishing** 1; **Bloodlines** 4 (Vortex); **Oz Squad** 2-4 (Patch Work Press); almost any of Hanther's **Tandra** albums (Hanthercraft); **Kendra - Legacy of the Blood** (Perrydog Press)? Fabio P. Barbieri, 33 Brewster Road, Leyton, London E10 6RG, 0181 539 7842.

Wanted: English 1950s space, horror, crime, superhero, jungle and western comics including: **Space Adventures, Spaceman, Whiz, Master, Black Magic, Space Commando, Marvelman, Planet, Crimson Comet, Captain Valiant, Swift Morgan, Roy Carson, Mystery in Space, Marvel Family, Super Thriller, Speed Kings, Strange Worlds** + similar 1940s/'50s items. Mike Morley, 5 Crompton Avenue, Sprotboro Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN5 8ED.

Wanted: **Comico Primer** 2; **Grendel** 2-12 17 18 33-38; **Mage** 12; **Silverback** 1-3; **Cable** 5 6; **Sabretooth** 3; **X-Force** 10 11. In vfn upwards. Send lists to P. Hopper, 27 Upper Barresdale, Almwick, Northumberland NE66 1DP.

Wanted: **Action** 373; **Brave and Bold** 125-26; **Green Arrow** 75 86; **Guy Gardner** 18-21; **Infinity Inc** 19 30 34 46 47; **Spectacular Spider-Man** 40; **Web of Spider-Man** 112; **Who's Who in DC** 21 24; **World's Finest** 170. Contact T. Houssein, 50 Mauritius Road, Greenwich SE10 0EQ. Tel: 0181 305 0398.

Wanted: Harvey Kurtzman's **Collected L'il Annie Fanny** (Playboy) any condition; **Strips** 5 7 onwards (Rip Off Press); **AKA Goldfish: Jack** (Caliber); **2 Hot Girls** 4 (Eros); **Nick Fury** 1-7 (1st series) fn upwards. I'm offering serious bucks for these and even better deals in exchange, so call me! Mark 0181 311 9212.

Wanted: **Razor** ½ 0-12, will swap for **Superman** 500 75 (collectors editions, bagged) and 82 (foil cover) and **Gambit** and **X-Men** sets 1-4. Also wanted **Gen 13** 1 (variant cover, Freefall) will swap for **X-Men** 266 (1st Gambit). Also **Gen 13** ½ 3 4, swap for **Factor X** 1 2 and **X-Men** 250. Write to P. Ficken, 26 Torrens Road, Stratford, London E15 4NA.

Wanted: 1960s Marvel and DC comics in poor to good condition. Contact Bohdan Kowalyk, 113 Mosswood Crescent, Bestwood Park, Nottingham NG5 5SU.

Best prices paid for: **Cry For Dawn** 1-9 (all printings); **Animal Mystic** 1-4 (all printings); **Razor** (all printings); comics with Linsner artwork; **Vampirella** (Warren & Harris); **Verotik**; **Lady Death & Evil Ernie**; **Nightcry** 1; **Kabuki**; **Shi**. Especially alternate covers, premium edition and signed copies. Contact Chris on 0171 603 8079 (24hr answerphone).

**Hulk** 181, **X-Men** 94 and Giant Size 1 wanted for my Wolverine collection. Tell me what you want to swap them for. I have: **FF** 48 (fn+/vfn-), **Iron Man** 55 (vfn+) and many more. Can also pay cash. Contact Kevin Butters, 47 Grove Rd, Romford, Essex RM6 4AQ. 0181 599 9306.

Wanted: decent copies of: **Space 1999** 3-6; **Emergency** 1 (2nd series); **Wheelie & Chopper Bunch** 1-7; **A.C.A. Comics** 1; Giant Size **Dracula** 5; **Marvel Chillers** 6; **The Big Byrne Book**; **The John Byrne Sketchbook.** Will pay cash. Contact Jim: 0141 951 4504, 71 Dornal Avenue, Yoker, Glasgow G13 4HQ.

Collectors Comics is buying: Marvel, DC, independents and traditional British comics, 1960s to 1980s. Willing to consider any grade, but specialists in low grades. Send lists to Collectors Comics, 97 Boundary Road, Mountsorrel, Leicester LE12 7EP, or tel 0166 442 4465. Will travel to view.

Wanted: **Daredevil** 158-189 and **X-Men** 94-149 162 200-204. Have thousands of comics to exchange for the above (mostly Marvel). For list send SSAE to D. Phillips, 9 Pier Road, Kilchoan, Acharacle, Argyll PH36 4LJ.

Wanted: **Sandman** 8 12 20 21 25 53, **Special** 1; **Children's Crusade** 1 & 2; any **Shade** comic by Chris Bachalo. I can't find the **Death Gallery** anywhere, has anyone out there got it? Also anything else on Death (except the series) posters, tattoos, t-shirts, etc. Contact David Arran Brogden, 148 Upper Castle Street, West Bowling, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD5 7RY.

Wanted in fine condition, back issues of Overstreet magazines: **Comic Book Monthly**, **Comic Book Quarterly** (gold & silver) and **Comic Book Marketplace** (1st series). Contact with price details: Alan Kay, 45 Cretan Road, Liverpool L15 0HR. Tel: 0151 734 2025.

Wanted: **Warlock, Warlock & Infinity Watch, Warlock Chronicles** and **Silver Surfer** comics, annuals and graphic novels. Will buy or swap for: **Wolverine** 4 50 57-64 66 70 72-73 78 84 86; **Punisher/Wolverine African saga**; **Wolverine battles Incredible Hulk**; **Wolverine: The Jungle Adventure** and **Wolverine vs Spider-Man** books. Contact Rory on 01432 263898, or write to 17 Primrose Close, Mayberry Avenue, Hereford HR2 7QX.

Wanted: **DC Comics Presents** 2 4 5 7, also **Quasar** 2 13-17 19-27 35. Will buy or swap. For list send SAE to Brian Richards, 115 Church St, Eastwood, Notts NG16 3HR.

*Lawrence Taylor* rookie card - Topps Football 434. Also D4 A2 A3 A4 from *Simpsons* 2. Contact I.Ramadi, The Ridgeway, Kingsbury, London NW9 0UG. Tel: 0589 510142.

Wanted: single cards from *Lois & Clark* card set to complete collection. Chase cards and show-related material also wanted. Willing to pay or swap with cards/comics so send me your lists. Contact Chris Ferguson, 12a/76 Collina Street, Maryhill, Glasgow G20 8AU.

Wanted: **Flash Gordon** ('60s-'80s) 1 2 4 6 8 12-19 21-24 38; **Flash Gordon Book** 3; **Squa Tront** 1 4 5; **Blab** 2; **Buzz** 2 3; **Primecuts** 3-5; **Snake Eyes** 1; **Love & Rockets Sketchbook** 1; **Creepy** 43 83 92; **Comix International** 4 5; **Eerie** 81 86; **Creepy Annual** 1974; **Neat Stuff** 7-11 14; **Amazing Heroes** 96 97; **Comics Interview** 65. Contact Kevin, 19 Colwyn Ave, Fallowfield M14 6QN.

Batman fan, who recently became a born-again Spider-Man fan as well, desperately needs any info on the past of Spider-Man. Write to David Evans, 5 Milbank Close, Hart Village, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS27 3BT.

Wanted: artist for small press superhero venture. Contact Steven: 01960 341733 after 6pm weeknights.

One rapidly reducing wants list follows. Marvels: **Gunsmoke Western** 56 78-80; **Journey into Mystery** 51 52 54 55 57 58 62 63; **Rawhide Kid** (Kirby) 17 21 22 24 35; **Strange Tales** 67-69 71 72 78 82 86; **Strange Worlds** 2-5; **Tales of Suspense** 2 4 45; **Two-Gun Kid** 52-54; **X-Men** 107. DCs: **Batman** 100 101 107 115; **Blackhawk** 105 109 121 124 140; **Detective** 250-252 254 257 265; **House of Mystery** 104 109 122 126 128 138 139; **House of Secrets** 4 6 7 13 15 16 18 22 23 29 30 32-34 38; **My Greatest Adventure** 1 2 5-8 10-16 18-20 23 24 27 28 32 35 37 53 57 63 64 70; **Our Army at War** 83 86-88 93 95; **Showcase** 70; **Superboy** 5 63; **Superman** 50-56 59-64 67 71 75 76 83 85 87 88; **Tales of the Unexpected** 2-5 12-15 17-22 24 26 29 35 38; **Wonder Woman** 101-108 113 114 137 185 191 198-200; **World's Finest** 66 67 68 70 71 72 73 74 77 81. Indies: **Alarming Tales** (Harvey) 1 3-5; **Avenger** (ME) 3 4; **The Fly** (Archie) 3 8 31 33 35 36; **Doctor Solar** (GK) 26; **Fighting American** 1-3 5-7; **Magnus** (GK) 27 28; **ThunderBunny** (WaRP) 1. Write to: Derek G. Skinn, 8 Trinity Rd, London N2 8JJ

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Fanzine and small press titles must not be** offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, samples should be sent with advertising copy.*

**Alan J. Harper** (ex. Stateside Birmingham) please phone Ken on 0181 771 8756.

Writers wanted! People aspiring to become comics writers wanted to collaborate on scripts/synopsis to submit to comics companies — particularly Image, Dark Horse and Vertigo. Send scripts/synopsis samples and SAE to: Sam Johnson, 2 Pembroke Mansions, 16 Canfield Gardens NW6 3JX.

Daily Planet - The club for fans of TV's *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*. Quarterly zines featuring cast interviews, episode guides, reviews, season 3 latest, etc. For more details send SAE to Daily Planet, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW. (*Babylon 5* club details also available).

From Gerry Anderson to *Doctor Who, Star Trek, Avengers* and more. **Time Screen** 21, a special edition devoted to British telefantasy as reflected by the comic strip artist. £2.95 (inc. postage) from **Time Screen**, 88 Edlington Lane, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9LS.

Bristol comic and sci-fi mart: St John's Hall, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol. Saturday, August 19. Doors open: 10am-3pm, free admission and parking. American/British comics and annuals, merchandise and cards. Enquiries - contact Dave: 0117 955 3186.

Artists and/or writers, male or female, needed to contribute to a new low budget biker comic. Any genre of strip, short story, cartoon or illustration considered, provided it has a motorbike connection. Send a sample of work, or just contact Steve, 104a Shaftsbury Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2YN.

Committed superhero-type artist required for small press strip. Influences: George Orwell and Justine Frischmann. Samples (guaranteed reply with SAE) to Rik Hoskin, 1 Ravensbourne Road, East Twickenham TW1 2DG.

Writer seeks artist for various projects for fun and profit (all on spec) - SF, superhero, cartoons, kiddies books, graphic novels, etc. Send samples to Carl Bateman, 86 First Avenue, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 1DW.

**Psychopia** 0 is out now! 64 pages of articles, reviews, interviews, comic strips and more for only 75p. A bargain you can't miss! From B. Patston, 92 Himley Green, Old Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 7QA. All cheques/PO's to B. Patston.

Looking for the trading card firm who used to have an advert in **Comics International** for swapping trading cards, eg: 2 cards swap for one card. Please contact me as I need loads of single cards and have 100s to swap. Contact M. Rees, 8 Heol-Y-Parc, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch, Nr. Porth, Mid Glam CF39 8RH.

**The Jack Kirby Quarterly** 4 is out now. £1.30 inc p&p. This issue features the big Joe Sinnott interview. And much, much more! If you're a fan of the king then you must buy this! From Chris Harper, 25 Napier Drive, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 7NW.

Britain's very best fanzine **Mondo** needs you! Ye humble editors need talented artists for new and established strips. Contact Lee Davis, 140 Amersham Avenue, Edmonton, London N18 1DY. Our bloody brilliant latest issue is out now — for a meagre £1.35!

**The Panelhouse**: for people who think comics should be taken seriously, but realise some are completely absurd. Issue 2 is out now, featuring Miller, Talbot, Muñoz & Sampayo, euro-index, £2 (3-issue sub £5). From 7 New River Crescent, London N13 5RD. Cheques payable to **The Panelhouse.**

Small press publishers! They know me in every shop in London! They take the comics I distribute in every shop in London! Do you want to increase, double, treble your sales? Get in touch with Fabio P. Barbieri, Fat Man Small Press Distribution, 33 Brewster Rd, Leyton, London E10 6RG. Tel: 0181 539 7842. Whatever you have, if it's good, as Churchill used to say: "London can take it".

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# EVENTS

*An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page this issue where the advertisement with full details appears.*

## AUGUST

1/8 **LONDON:** Judge Dredd Mega-Exhibition, National Museum of Cartoon Art, Baird House, 15-17 St Cross Street EC1. (Ends 25/8) .................. (p 27)
12/8 **GLOUCESTER:** Comic, Card & Sci-Fi Mart, Leisure Centre, Bruton Way (p 20)
12/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic & Sci-Fi Mart, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane . (p 89)
12/8 **LONDON:** Judge Dredd book signing with guests: Simon Bisley, Brian Bolland and Kevin Walker, Forbidden Planet, 71 New Oxford Street ......... (p 14)
13/8 **BASILDON:** SF & Comic Fair with guests, Sports Centre, Nethermayne (p 68)
20/8 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way WC1 .................................. (p 17)
26/8 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Uxbridge Rd (p 98)
26/8 **MANCHESTER:** Comic, Film & Sci-Fi Mart, Dominion Hotel, Princess St (p 88)
26/8 ***NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling St .... (p 19)
27/8 **ST. ALBANS:** Comic Mart, Frances Bacon School, Drakes Drive ..... (p 74)

## SEPTEMBER

2/9 **BRISTOL:** Comic, Card & Sci-Fi Mart, New Trinity Community Centre, Trinity Rd St Philips, Bristol .................................. (p 20)
2/9 ***LEEDS:** Comic Mart and Film Fair, Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way .................................. (p 19)
2/9 **SALISBURY:** Worlds of Colour art exhibition with guest signings. The Fisherton Mill, 108 Fisherton Street. (Ends 23/9) ........................ (p 16)
9/9 **COVENTRY:** Comic & Sci-Fi Mart, University Student's Union, Priory St (p 89)
9/9 ***NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road .................................. (p 19)
9/9 **SWINDON:** Comic/Sci-Fi Mart, Oasis Leisure Centre, North Star Avenue.(p 20)
10/9 ***LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street ............... (p 19)
10/9 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, TUC Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell St (p 88)
16/9 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic & Sci-Fi Mart, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane . (p 89)
16/9 ***SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield .................................. (p 19)
17/9 **LONDON:** Sci-Fi & Comic Fair, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1 . (p 68)
23/9 ***BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Carrs Lane Church Centre (p 19)
23/9 **LONDON:** SF & Comic Fair w/ guests, Central Club, 16/22 Gt Russell St(p 68)
24/9 ***LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson St(p 19)
24/9 **MANCHESTER:** Comic, Film & Sci-Fi Mart, Dominion Hotel, Princess St(p 88)
30/9 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly ... (p 19)
30/9 **LONDON:** 2-day weekend UK Comic Arts Convention '95, Institute of Education & Royal National Hotel, London WC1 ........................ (p 12)

## OCTOBER

1/10 **BASILDON:** SF & Comic Fair with guests, Sports Centre, Nethermayne (p 68)
1/10 **PETERBOROUGH:** Comic Mart and Film Fair, Great Northern Hotel, Station Approach .................................. (p 86)
7/10 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart and Film Fair, Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way .................................. (p 19)
8/10 **BRIGHTON:** Sci-Fi & Comic Fair, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road ..... (p 68)
8/10 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1 ....... (p 102)
14/10 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling St ..... (p 19)
21/10 **CARDIFF:** Comic Mart Special Edition, The Angel Hotel, Westgate St . (p 20)
21/10 **HULL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Valiant House, Anlaby Road ........ (p 19)
22/10 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough St .. (p 64)
28/10 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Carrs Lane Church Centre .. (p 19)

## NOVEMBER

4/11 **LONDON:** SF & Comic Fair w/ guests, Central Club, 16/22 Gt Russell St(p 68)
4/11 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart and Film Fair, Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way .................................. (p 19)
11/11 **GLOUCESTER:** Gloucester Leisure Centre, Bruton Way ........... (p 20)
11/11 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road .................................. (p 19)
12/11 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way WC1 .................................. (p 17)
18/11 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield .................................. (p 19)
19/11 **LEICESTER:** Comic Mart, YMCA, Granby Street ................ (p 19)
25/11 **BRISTOL:** Comic, Card & Sci-Fi Mart, New Trinity Community Centre, Trinity Rd St Philips, Bristol .................................. (p 20)
26/11 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, TUC Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell St (p 88)

## DECEMBER

3/12 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1 ....... (p 102)
9/12 **LONDON:** SF & Comic Fair w/ guests, Central Club, 16/22 Gt Russell St(p 68)
17/12 **BRIGHTON:** Sci-Fi & Comic Fair, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road ..... (p 68)
17/12 **CARDIFF:** Comic Mart Special Edition, The Angel Hotel, Westgate St ; (p 20)

* denotes Golden Orbit marts with collection points for unwanted comics which can be handed over as donations to Serious Road Relief's Children in Bosnia fund (with comics being auctioned at UKCAC on 30-31/9/95. Closing date for donations at marts: Sept 24. Further details from Matt Jones at Planet X on 01905 355055.

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